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[10*th May to 22nd May*, 1957]

FIRST SESSION, 1957.

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
New Delhi.

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N. B. The Sign† above a name of a Member on Questions, which were orally answered, indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, 15th May, 1957

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MEMBERS SWORN

Shri M. M. Gandhi (Panchmahals).

Lala Achint Ram (Patiala).

Shri Murmu (Rajmahal-Reserved Sch. Tribes).

Swami Ramananda Tirtha (Aurangabad).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Kosi Embankments

*24. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position regarding the construction of embankments along the Kosi, and the construction of canal and building of barrage on it;

(b) whether the work is proceeding according to plan and time schedule; and

(c) what is the total expenditure incurred so far?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 12].

Shri Shree Narayan Das: From the statement it appears that only 60 per cent. of work on the sluices has been completed. May I know the reasons for this slow progress and whether

Government is aware that due to the non-completion of these aluises a large area to the west of the western bank is flooded even now?

Shri S. K. Patil: The progress appears to be a little slow because of some difficulties that we are encountering; but those difficulties are gradually being overcome, so that the work can be speeded up.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to compensate the residents of such of the villages as have fallen within the two embankments?

Shri S. K. Patil: We are trying to work up the compensation. But that is a matter which the Board is considering, and we have not got their suggestions yet. But it is obvious that those that will be affected by this will be compensated, and very adequately compensated.

Shri Keshava: As this project is helpful to Nepal also, is Nepal making any contribution towards the cost of the project?

Shri S. K. Patil: No.

Pandit D. N. Tiwari: May I know what percentage of work has been done so far by village panchayats and labour co-operatives?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): During the last two years, the work done by village co-operatives and gram panchayats was 5:23 crores c. ft. in 1954-55 and 10:39 crores c. ft. in 1955-56. The total work done in these years was, 18·35 crores c. ft. in 1954-55 and 35·82 c. ft. crores in 1955-56.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The hon. Minister, in answer to the previous

[Dr. Ram Subhag Singh]

question referred to some difficulties which the Government are encountering. May I know the nature of the difficulties and who has created them?

Shri S. K. Patil: The villagers who are likely to be affected have entered a strong opposition as regards the alignment of the embankment. Also there were some difficulties about water-logging. All these difficulties we are attempting to solve so that we can speed up the work as quickly as we can.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: In view of the dissatisfaction prevailing in the villages which are affected, may I know whether the Government will make a categorical statement giving an indication as to the compensation they will get or as to the way in which they will be rehabilitated?

Shri S. K. Patil: This problem is under active investigation of the Kosi Project Control Board. Therefore, it is premature just now to indicate any quantum that would be paid by way of compensation.

Co-operative Farming

*25. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any specific report from the State Governments as regards the progress made by them in the direction of co-operative farming; and

(b) if so, names of such States and nature of their reports?

The Minister of Co-operation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). No specific report has either been called for or received from the State Governments regarding progress of co-operative farming. A statement has, however, been placed on the Table of Lok Sabha, which gives information available in the Ministry regarding the present position of co-operative farming societies [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 13). The Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission had some time ago conducted a survey of 22 existing Cooperative Farming Societies. A copy of the report which has just been released has been placed in the Library of the House.

Shri L. N. Mishra: The report of the Second Five Year Plan suggested that the targets for co-operative farming during the Second Plan will be fixed up in consultation with the various State Governments in the course of the first year of the Plan. May I know whether anything has been fixed?.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No; not finally yet.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Would the hon. Minister tell us the acreage already brought under co-operative farming?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): It is given in the statement. The total acreage is 1,44,065.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether it is a fact that some of the State Governments hold different views as regards co-operative farming and whether the Government of U.P. has openly protested against the recommendation of the Planning Commission?

Shri A. P. Jain: The Government of U.P. as Government has not expressed any such opinion. But, some ministers of the U. P. Government have expressed doubts about the feasibility of co-operative farming.

Shri L. N. Mishra: What is the reaction of the Government of India. I want to know whether the Government of India have some definite views about it or not.

Shri A. P. Jain: Yes. The Government of India hold definite views and these views are given in the Second Five Year Plan.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: In view of co-operative farming, may I know how many tractors the Government

have bought for this and how many of them are lying idle?

Shri A. P. Jain: I do not think tractors have any particular relationship with co-operative farming as such.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know if the Government propose to..

Mr. Speaker: I have called the next question.

Vickers-Viscount Aircraft

*26. **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) how many Vickers-Viscount aircrafts are to be put into operation during 1957 by the Indian Air Lines Corporation under the modernization scheme;

(b) whether Government in order to have a maintenance centre of the Vickers-Viscounts propose to construct a hangar; and

(c) if so, where?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Five aircraft are expected to be put into operation during 1957.

(b) Yes.

(c) At Palam.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether Government propose to replace all the Dakotas and Vikings by Viscounts on all the trunk routes of the Indian Airlines Corporation?

Shri Humayun Kabir: At present, the proposal is to replace the Viking services by the Viscount services. The question of replacing the Dakota services is under examination separately.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether Government have prepared any estimate of the foreign exchange involved in the purchase of these Viscounts, and whether in view of the difficult foreign exchange situation, Government propose to revise this scheme?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The orders for the first five Viscounts were placed in 1955, and for the second set of five Viscounts in 1956. So, the orders have already been placed, and it would probably not be advisable to revise those orders now, because we may undergo losses.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is it true that a batch of twelve pilots sent to the United Kingdom for training in the Viscount service, did no flying at all in the U.K. and they had also not finished their course of ground lectures there?

Shri Humayun Kabir: A number of pilots have been sent for training in the operation of the Viscount services. I have no information that they have had no flying experience at all.

Shri Kasliwal: What will be the percentage of increase in air traffic after these Viscounts have been pressed into service?

Shri Humayun Kabir: It is impossible to anticipate at this stage what would be the actual increase. But we do expect there will be increase. Otherwise, we would not have gone in for these larger and faster aircraft.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know the total number of pilots that have been trained here or abroad for these Viscounts?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I would ask for notice.

Shri Karni Singhji: What will be the cost of one aircraft?

Shri Humayun Kabir: Approximately Rs. 50 lakhs.

Wagon Building Scheme

*27. {Shri Radha Raman: / Shri Bahadur Singh:

Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether the expansion plan for manufacturing wagons includes a proposal to introduce new designs and more factories to manufacture them?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): Yes.

Shri Radha Raman: What are the special features of this expansion programme? How many factories do Government propose to start? What will be the capacity of each factory?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The Railway Equipment Committee went into the question of toure requirement of wagons for the Second Plan period. It was assessed at about 36,000 annually. They recommended 22 firms for manufacturing wagons. Out of those, 15 have been selected by the railways. Educational orders have been placed on some of them, and all those firms that have been selected have been asked to develop capacity of 1,000 wagons annually, except one which has to develop capacity of 4,00 wagons per annum.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know where these factories which Government propose to start will be located?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: They are very well spaced out throughout India. Those places are Santragachi, Kanpur, Bharatpur, Allahabad or Bareilly, Pattabhiram near Avadi in Madras, Bombay, Madras, Barauni or Mokameh, Delhi, Sahibabad (Ghaziabad), Ahmedabad, Kanpur, Sawaimadhopur and Rajkot.

Shri Keshava: May I know whether it is the monopoly of these few firms to manufacture these wagons, and if not, whether any offers have been made by any firm from the city of Bangalore, and if the reply to the latter is in the affirmative, the response of Government towards that offer?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The Railway Equipment Committee apparently went and inspected the premises and all the other arrangements that the various firms had. And on the basis of their experience, they recommended 22 firms. Out of those, we have selected 15.

Shri Bahadur Singh: May I know the present installed capacity of wagons per year and the proposed increase per year?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: At present, we are manufacturing over 17,000 wagons a year, and we are thinking of increasing it to 36,000 by the end of the Second Plan period.

Pandit D. N. Tiwari: In view of the horrible condition of metre-gauge coaches, will Government consider the desirability of manufacturing more metre-gauge coaches?

Mr. Speaker: The question relates to wagons.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether there was a proposal to start a wagon manufacturing industry in Kerala because of the availability of timber, etc. there? Has Kerala been left out by oversight or it is not there in the scheme?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Wagons are made of metal. The hon. Member is probably referring to coaches.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar rose.

Mr. Speaker: Those hon. Members who are newcomers must rise early to put questions.

Air Services

28. { **Shri H. C. Mathur:**
Shri P. K. Deo:

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the extensions in Air-services given effect to since nationalisation;

(b) the profit and loss account of these extensions; and

(c) the expansion programme of civil aviation for the years 1957 and 1958?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communication (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 14].

Shri H. C. Mathur: How is it that even during this developmental stage and in view of the progressive policy of Government, some of the most important places which were on the air route for over 20 years—I am thinking of Jodhpur as one—have been cut out since nationalisation?

Shri Humayun Kabir: We recognise the importance of Jodhpur, but in deciding these routes, we have to take various factors into consideration. One of the most important is the traffic. The cost of operation can be divided under two broad heads: one is the variable cost like the cost of petrol, actual maintenance of aircraft, etc., and the other is what may be called more or less permanent cost like overhead charges and things of that nature. If there is a route where even the cost of petrol is not met, it is obviously difficult to maintain it. Generally, out of the 25 routes which are operated by the Indian Airlines Corporation, 5 have been found to be not able to meet even the variable cost, the direct cost. I am afraid the particular route, to which reference has been made by the hon. Member, is one of these routes.

Shri H. C. Mathur: This place has been on the air route for over 20 years and even the commercial enterprises could find it profitable to run on that route. How is it that when it is nationalised, it is not profitable to do so? I want to know what new factors have entered to make this route unprofitable.

Shri Humayun Kabir: I have already mentioned that Jodhpur was a very important place. It was in the original air route. But I am dealing with facts; there is not the same traffic today. Various explanations may be offered for this change. I would not enter into a speculation on that point. The integration of the State may itself be one factor.

Shri Biren Roy: Arising out of the statement laid on the Table, would the hon. Minister be pleased to state if India has a proposal for running an airline by extending the South-East Asia line to China?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The matter is under examination.

Shri P. K. Deo: Would Government permit private individuals to run planes where Government do not find the route profitable?

Shri Humayun Kabir: Generally, whenever there is a 'no objection' certificate from the Indian Airlines Corporation or Air India International, Government do not place any difficulties in the way of private companies operating non-schedule services.

Shri Tangamani: In view of the fact that there is a suitable aerodrome at Madurai, may I know if there will be halting arrangement at Madurai?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister cannot remember the names of all the aerodromes. As regards individual cases, the hon. Member may write to the Minister.

Shri Humayun Kabir: May I make a general reply to these questions? The whole question of the route patterns of the Indian Airlines is now under examination again. With the intro-

duction of the Viscounts, we shall be revising the route patterns. If hon. Members who have suggestions write to the Ministry, these will be taken into consideration before the final route patterns are decided.

Food Scarcity

†

29 { **Shri Kasliwal:**
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri L. N. Mishra:
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
Shri Radha Raman:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Pandit M. B. Bhargava:
Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Pandit D. N. Tiwary:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Damar:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Wodeyar:
Shri P. C. Bose:
Shri Jhulan Sinha:
Shri Anirudha Sinha:
Shri H. C. Mathur:
Shri Jangde:
Shri Sarjoo Pandey:
Shri A. C. Guha:
Shri Kalika Singh:
Shrimati Renu Chakravartty
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhri:
Shri Narayanankutty Menon:
Shri V. P. Nayar:
Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:
Shri Ghose:
Shri Ghosal:
Shri S. A. Amrit Dange:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri S. N. Dwivedy:
Shri B. K. Gaikwad:
Shri Shibban Lal Saksena:
Shri Khadilkar:
Shri Nagi Reddy:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Yajnik:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri Ramji Verma:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether scarcity conditions have appeared in any State; and

(b) if so, the names of he States and the steps; Government have taken to alleviate such conditions?

The Deputy Minister of Food (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b). A detailed statement about the food situation in the country has already been made in Lok Sabha on 14-5-57.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: We have not got the statement.

Mr. Speaker: Has it not been circulated to hon. Members?

Some Hon. Members: No, it is not circulated.

Mr. Speaker: Then this question will stand over for the next day* After studying the statement, suplementaries can be asked by hon. Members the next day.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: Will it come last in the list of questions? If so, we will have no chance to put supplementaries.

Mr. Speaker: I shall try to give the question priority.

Inland Water Transport

*30. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 366 on the 23rd November, 1956 and state whether Government have appointed any Committee to go into the question of development of inland waterways in the country and consider the Plan drawn up by the Central Water and Power Commission?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): Yes, Sir.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What is the personnel of that Committee and what are the terms of reference of that Committee?

Shri Humayun Kabir: These were set out in a Resolution which was

*This Question was subsequently asked as Starred Question No. 138-A *vide* Lok Sabha Debate dated 20th May, 1957—Ed. of D.

published in the Gazettee. It is in a published document and it is for you to decide whether I should read it out again. It has already been published but I can read it if you direct.

Mr. Speaker: Is it a long one?

Shri Humayun Kabir: It is longish. The personnel of the Committee is:

Shri B. K. Gokhale, Chairman,
Shri H. P. Mathrani,
Shri U. N. Mahida,
Shri D. V. Joglekar,
A member, Central Water and Power Commission,
Shri S. K. Mukerji,
Shri J. B. Craig and
Shri B. L. Jalan.

The terms of reference are:

"To advise on measures for the increased utilisation of Inland Water Transport including movement of bulk commodities to ports for purposes of export, account being taken of what is already contemplated under the Second Five Year Plan for the development of Inland Water Transport, and to give an estimate of

(a) the time needed for the execution of the schemes recommended, and

(b) their cost.

To examine the prospects of increasing and extending the river and canal services, including a direct service on the East Coast as well as from some point in the North to the South and to suggest steps to be taken to achieve effective co-ordination between the railways, and inland waterways, including financial participation, appropriate allocation of traffic as between the two modes of transport and arrangements for through booking."

Next,—

"To consider the organisation of an....

Mr. Speaker: He has read enough.

Shri Humayun Kabir: And, there is the general overall turn *viz*, to review the part played by inland water transport in the transport system of the country.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if any time-limit has been fixed for the submission of the report of this Committee for the examination of the report by the Government and for the implementation of this report before the Five Year Plan is over?

Mr. Speaker: Obviously, the Committee has just now been appointed.

Shri Humayun Kabir: The Committee has been appointed in February and they will be meeting in the month of July. They are collecting data and a questionnaire is being issued or has been issued—I am not in a position to state it today—and it is an expert committee and we expect that the report will be available fairly soon.

Shri Thirumal Rao: May I know if any non-official member having experience of trade and inland water transport is associated with this committee? If not, will the Government consider the desirability of adding representatives of this section of the trade before July?

Shri Humayun Kabir: There are several non-official members.

Some Hon. Members rose.

Mr. Speaker: A committee has been appointed and hon. Members must wait for the report

Sethu Samudram Project

*31. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 68, on the 25th March, 1957, and State:

(a) the present position of the Sethu Samudaram Project; and

(b) whether Government have taken any decision in regard thereto and if so, what?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). An

accurate estimate of the capital cost of the Project and of the anticipated traffic, the gross revenue and the net financial return is still under preparation. A decision can only be taken when the above mentioned particulars are available.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: In answer to a previous question it was stated that even if the project as contemplated is completed, ocean-going vessels will not be using this canal. Has the question been examined whether the project can be so adjusted as to allow ocean-going vessels also?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Whether the canal can be used by ocean-going vessels or steamers or not depends upon the draught of the particular vessel. Apart from that, the question is still under examination because the conclusions arrived at by the Sethusamudram project committee deserve closer scruting.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: It is said that there will be a saving of 3,000 miles if this project is put through. If that is so and if it is made available for ocean-going ships also, what would be the saving to shipping?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In terms of money it may not be possible to state anything, because that would depend upon traffic. But, I can say that there will be a saving as far as mileage is concerned; there may be a saving of about 300 or more miles so far as the route from Cochin to Madras is concerned; similarly, there may be a saving in regard to other routes also.

Mr. Speaker: Is it per trip?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In the route mileage, Sir.

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know when the Sethu Samudaram scheme will be inaugurated?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I said, the report of the Project Committee is still under examination. Certain conclusions arrived at by that Committee were found to deserve revision in terms of the estimated cost, estimated traffic and the foreign exchange required to be spent on the project and so on.

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar: In view of the fact that the Committee was appointed nearly two years ago, will the Government take adequate steps to expedite the examination of the report and start the scheme, as early as possible?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The examination of the report was started soon after it was submitted. It has been found that the estimated cost of the project given in the report as Rs. 9·89 crores is perhaps an under-estimate. The figures of anticipated traffic also seem to be rather on the optimistic side. The return on the project is also estimated to be much lower than 4·4 per cent. In all these matters, revision is going to take place.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Some technical aspects of this project were under examination by the hydrographical department. Has the examination been concluded?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As early as July 1956, it was decided that there should be a hydrographic survey of the straits of the sea along the proposed route. Borings also were to be effected at certain specified spots. That particular survey is going on.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Was this project originally taken up only for coastal traffic or was it for ocean going vessels also? Will this question also be considered now?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It depends upon the size of the steam ship. It depends upon the draught. The depth of the canal is expected to be 32 feet if the project is executed.

Mr. Speaker: What is the minimum draught? The reply of the hon. Minister is equally vague. Can at least one ocean-going steamer be allowed to go there?

Shri Raj Bahadur: From the reports available it is found that steamers having a draught of 26 feet will be able to pass the channel and enter the port of Tuticoran, which may also be developed under the scheme.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister might have given that answer and avoided further questions. Next question.

Khandwa-Hingoli Rail Link

*32. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sections between Khandwa and Piplod and Hingoli and Kunhargaon have been opened to both goods and passenger traffic;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) when the same are likely to be opened to traffic; and

(d) whether the construction of the bridges across the major rivers on the Khandwa-Hingoli rail link have been taken up?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Not yet.

(b) (i) The section between Khandwa and Piplod which has been completed was inspected on 25-4-1957 by the Government Inspector of Railways whose sanction to opening for public traffic is awaited.

(ii) Work on the section between Hingoli and Kunhargaon is expected to be completed by June, 1957.

(c) (i) The section between Khandwa and Piplod will be opened to Goods and Passenger traffic on receipt of sanction from the Government Inspector of Railways.

(ii) The section between Hingoli and Kunhargaon is expected to be opened for traffic in July, 1957.

(d) Yes, excepting Melghat area.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if the inspection report is awaited for passenger traffic? What is the reason for the delay in opening it for goods traffic?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is for both traffic—goods and passengers.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Am I to understand that this line will be opened for goods and passenger traffic simultaneously?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Yes, Sir.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know whether it is a fact that work on Hingoli-Kunhargaon is not going on according to the schedule and if so, what are the reasons?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There are certain factors over which we have no control. For instance, sometimes there is a shortage of steel. But, barring that, there is no abnormal delay.

Development of Ports in Kerala

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*33. **Shri Narayanankutty Menon:**
Shri Warior:

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have any proposals for development of the minor ports of Kerala;

(b) if so, which are the ports; and

(c) the nature of the proposal and the decision taken thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). The development of minor ports is primarly the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government gives financial assistance for schemes included in the Five Year Plans. The Second Five Year Plan includes schemes for the development of the ports of Alleppey, Quilon, Vizhinjam, Kozhikode, Badagara, Tellicherry, Cannanore, Azhikhal and Ponnani in the Kerala State. The total estimated cost of these schemes is Rs. 47·85 lakhs. The works cover improvement of landing facilities, navigational aids, modernisation of cranes, etc.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: Is there any possibility of increasing the number of minor ports in the Second Five Year Plan?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Shri Nanjudayya, Port Commissioner and Administrative Officer of Vizag Port was appointed to go into the question of development of these minor ports. As per the recommendations contained in his report we arrived at certain conclusions and, I think, we will have to stick to them for the present.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wanted to know whether there is any chance or prospect of any more minor ports being included in the Second Five Year Plan.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I think in the Second Five Year Plan it may not be possible.

Shri Keshava: May I know whether the development of these ports is also a part and parcel of the bigger scheme for development of other small and minor ports in the western parts, like Batkhal and Mallepy?

Mr. Speaker: In what State?

Shri Keshava: In the Western coast.

Mr. Speaker: There are two or three States.

Shri Keshava: I am talking of Mysore State.

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have got certain plans State-wise for the development of minor ports, and we have got certain recommendations for the development of certain ports in the Mysore State also.

Shri Keshava: May I know what percentage of the total does the Centre contemplate for development of minor ports?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have earmarked a sum of Rs. 5 crores to be advanced by way of loans for the development of these ports.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire whether any work has been started in any of the ports that have been mentioned by the hon. Minister, and whether out of the estimated cost of Rs. 47·85 lakhs any amount has been advanced by the Centre?

Shri Raj Bahadur: To begin with, I may say, in the first year we have advanced a loan of Rs. 63,000 to the Kerala State Government.

'Liberty' Ships

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*34. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India approached the U. S. Government for the purchase of "Liberty" ships; and

(b) what progress has been achieved in the negotiations?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) Negotiations are still being carried on.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know the terms on which negotiations are being carried on for the purchase of these ships?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We are proposing to purchase twelve "Liberty" ships. The terms depend upon the legislation that may be sponsored in the U.S. Senate to that effect.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member evidently wants to know the price of each.

Shri Raj Bahadur: The estimated price of a "Liberty" ship is Rs. 35 lakhs.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know whether, as seen in papers, there is any stipulation that the ships should not be used for continental and trans-oceanic service?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There is a stipulation that the "Liberty" ships when acquired will be used for coastal trade.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know how old these ships are?

Shri Raj Bahadur: 12 to 16 years.

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know how many "Liberty" ships the Government of India contemplate to buy in the course of this year?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have already mentioned that it is 12.

Tube-wells in Punjab

*35. **Shri Bahadur Singh:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Tube-wells allotted to Punjab under the 1952 T.C.A. Scheme;

(b) where all of them have been constructed and started working;

(c) whether 41 tube-wells constructed in the Samrala area of Ludhiana District of the Punjab under 1952 T.C.A. Scheme had been working since they were installed; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

The Minister of Co-operation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) 355.

(b) All the 355 tube-wells have been drilled, out of which two bores have had to be abandoned. 338 tube-wells have been completed with pumping sets, 290 energised and 177 are actually working.

(c) The number of tube-wells constructed in the Samrala area is 94. 56 of these are working.

(d) 38 tube-wells in the Samrala area have not been working for the following reasons:—

(i) The Zamindars consider that the present irrigation rate of three annas nine pies per unit of electricity consumed in running the tube-wells as too high; and

(ii) There has been some delay in the construction of water courses on some of the tube-wells, though the work is now going ahead.

Shri Bahadur Singh: May I know the approximate cost of construction and the cost of energising each tube-well?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I want notice to answer that question.

Shri Bahadur Singh: As the hon. Minister has said that there are certain tube-wells which are not working and which are not being made use of by the cultivators, may I know whether the Government of India is contemplating to arrive at any decision regarding these wells so that the cultivators can make use of them?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): These tube-wells are sanctioned out of the Aid Programme and the rupee counterpart is provided by the Government of India. Tube-wells are assigned to the different States and it is for the State Governments to construct tube-wells and to work them. In fact, we took up the matter with the State Governments, and now, the State Government in question has appointed a committee whose report is under consideration.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know wheher the Government propose to give any help or grant so that the working cost of these tube-wells may be lowered and water may thus be made economic to the peasant?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There is no proposal for giving any grant, but it is for the State Government to consider it.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know what is the average acreage of land brought under irrigation by the tube-wells and what is the capacity for irrigation by these tube-wells?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: On the average, it is 300 to 400 acres.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: But at present, how much land has been brought under irrigation by tube-wells?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I must ask for notice.

Shri Dasappa: Do not the Government consider that a rate of 3·9 annas is too high for irrigation purposes?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The rates have to be related to the cost incurred by the Government.

Shri Dasappa: What then, may I know, is the cost per unit that the Government incurs for these wells?

Shri A. P. Jain: These are all matters which concern the State Governments. It is the State Governments, which generate electricity, that run the tube-wells. The State Government is looking into the cost price of the water supplied by the tube-wells.

दिल्ली में पानी की कमी

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*३६. { श्री नवल प्रभाकर :
श्री राधा रमण :

क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली में पानी की वर्तमान कमी को दूर करने के लिये सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है; और

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली के अधिकांश दुमंजिले मकानों में पानी नहीं चढ़ रहा है ?

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री (श्री करमरकर) : (क) और (ख). दिल्ली में पानी की वर्तमान कमी को दूर करने के लिए जो कदम उठाये गये हैं या उठाये जा रहे हैं उनका एक विवरण लोक-सभा की मेज पर रख दिया गया है। [देखिये परिशिष्ट १, अनबन्ध संख्या १५]

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : पिछले कई वर्षों से दिल्ली प्रशासन यह चेष्टा कर रहा है कि पंजाब और उत्तर प्रदेश से पानी प्राप्त किया जाये। क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि उसके सम्बन्ध में क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

श्री करमरकर : उसके बारे में अभी तक कोई प्रगति नहीं हुई है। आजकल कोशिश हो रही है कि वर्जीनाद पंपिंग स्टेशन पर पानी को बढ़ाया जाय।

श्री राधा रमण : यह मालूम होते हुए कि दिल्ली में पानी की कमी कई वर्षों से नजर आ रही है और गवर्नमेंट को इस का इन्तजाम जल्दी से जल्दी करना चाहिए, इस में इतनी देर होने का क्या कारण है ?

Shri Karmarkar: I am sorry that I have to contradict my hon. friend who knows these things a little better than perhaps I do. In fact, for a large part of Delhi, there is no question of shortage of water. In certain areas which are newly grown up, there is shortage, and out of the 18-lakh to 20-lakh population, about 4 lakhs are getting intermittent supply of water. In order to meet this shortage in some of these areas, we are now proceeding with steps which my hon. friend knows well, and that is for increasing the intake of water at present. Now, we are tying to provide for the future in the second Five Year Plan for an estimated population of over 21 lakhs. But that will be for the future. Now, the present steps which we are taking will fructify round about the beginning of 1959, and that will give a satisfactory supply of water to all those areas which are having either a partial shortage or are completely deprived of filtered water.

श्री राधा रमण : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने यह बताया कि पानी का इन्तजाम काफी है, लेकिन कुछ जगहों में नहीं है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इस वक्त इन्डस्ट्रियल एरिया में पानी का इन्तजाम है या नहीं और जिन इलाकों के बारे में मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि वहां पानी की कमी चली आ रही है, वहां उस कमी को पूरा करने में कितने दिन और लगेंगे।

Mr. Speaker: He has already said that it is 1959.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि अब प्रति व्यक्ति कितना पानी मिल रहा है ?

Shri Karmarkar: Somewhere between 35 to 37 gallons.

Hydro-electric Power from Hirakud Dam

*37. **Shri Supakar:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of hydro-electric power generated at present from the Hirakud Dam Project in Orissa; and

(b) the quantity actually consumed at present, out of the power generated?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) Only one Unit (No. III) of 24,000 Kw was commissioned on the 19th December, 1956. The total number of units generated by this unit upto the 30th April, 1957, was 1,41,66,500.

(b) (i) Units transmitted and consumed at various consuming centres: 1,40,69,390.

(ii) Units consumed by Power House auxiliaries and line losses: 97,110.

Shri Supakar: May I know by what time the whole load is likely to be utilised?

Shri S. K. Patil: So far as this is concerned, the whole load is utilised. If you are talking of the other power, that will be produced, it will be utilised by the end of this year.

Shri Supakar: May I know at what places are these power units being utilised?

Shri S. K. Patil: Power from Hirakud will feed various industrial plants and other consumers. There is quite a large number of them and it will take a long time to read them.

Shri Supakar: Is rural electrification one of the projects to benefit from Hirakud?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): The load survey that has been taken relates to the industrial concerns; but, naturally the State Government will have to prepare plans for rural electrification also.

Shri Mahanty: May I know what is the cost per unit of the electricity generated in Hirakud and how it compares with the electricity generated at Damodar and Bokaro?

Shri Hathi: The cost of electricity per unit, generated at Hirakud, is roughly ·44 of an anna. I think at Damodar and at Bokaro it varies, where it is about ·46 of an anna or so.

Shri Supakar: What is the cost according to the naya paisa standard?

Mr. Speaker: It can be converted.

Shri L. N. Mishra: What is the method of sale that has been evolved by the project administration? Will the power be sold to the State Government in bulk or to the major industries?

Shri Hathi: It is sold to the State Government. Hirakud is really a State Government concern.

Navigational System in Sunderbans

*38. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal by the State of West Bengal to consider the modernisation of the navigational system in the Sunderbans, has been discussed;

(b) if so, whether necessary data has been collected;

(c) whether the scheme thus adumbrated will be taken up during the Second Five Year Plan;

(d) what is the total amount that will be spent during the Second Plan on Inland Water Transport; and

(e) what is the share of the West Bengal Government in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The data are at present under examination.

(c) There is no provision for this project in the Second Five Year Plan.

(d) Rupees three crores, out of which Rupees one hundred and fifty lakhs will be spent in the Ganga Brahmaputra region.

(e) The provision made by the Central Government for inland water transport has not been on a State-wise basis, but, approximately, Rs. 13·5 lakhs will be spent on schemes which fall within the West Bengal State.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the Central Government will have any objection to take this scheme within the Second Five Year Plan, if the West Bengal Government want to do it with the allocation that has been made?

Shri Humayun Kabir: We shall certainly be prepared to request the Ganga-Brahmaputra Water Transport Board to consider this suggestion carefully and if at all practicable accommodate it within the Second Five Year Plan.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that inter-State transactions exist between Calcutta and Assam through Sunderbans and if so, whether importance will be given to this scheme on account of the inter-State transactions?

Shri Humayun Kabir: Yes, Sir; importance will be given to it.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that large areas of the inland water communication of the Sunderbans are now getting silted up and the main rivers are becoming unnavigable, may I know whether the Government has any scheme included within the Second Five Year Plan for keeping these rivers suitable for inland water transport?

Shri Humayun Kabir: Yes, Sir, provision has been made for it.

Railway Lines in Kerala

*39. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the new railway lines for which survey has been ordered in Kerala; and

(b) the progress of the surveys instituted, if any?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Survey for Tellicherry-Coorg-Mysore and Tinnevelly/Trivandrum-Cape Comorin have been sanctioned a portion of which fall in Kerala State.

(b) Reconnaissance Engineering Survey for 71 miles of Tellicherry-Mysore and Traffic survey of Tinnevelly/Trivandrum-Cape Comorin have been completed.

Shri A. M. Thomas: There was an announcement by the hon. Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri when he opened the line from Ernakulam to Kottayam that surveys would be ordered for some other lines also. May I know whether that idea has been dropped?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The hon. Member is fully aware that the Railways are faced with shortage of funds and we cannot go on undertaking indefinite surveys.

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is not a question of indefinite surveys. In spite of the compliments so liberally paid in the Budget speech to the hon. Minister's predecessor, why is it that an undertaking that has been given by the previous Railway Minister in regard to surveys is not being implemented?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): As I said during the course of my Budget speech, surveys

have been done of considerable mileage and there is no chance of those lines being taken up for construction for want of funds and also of material. As I remarked, ther was no sense in ordering further surveys only for the satisfaction of certain areas when we fully know that there is no chance of construction work being taken up during the course of the Second Five Year Plan.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether the Central Government is aware that the average mileage of railway lines in Kerala is not even one-third of the all-India average?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Maybe; there is all possible anxiety on the part of the Railway Ministry also to construct as many new lines as we can. But we have to face the fact that we are short not only of funds, but also of materials and so long as the materials position does not improve there is not much sense in undertaking survey of new lines.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Several hon. Members *rose.*

Mr. Speaker: I have called the next question. Hon. Members should rise well in time.

Sambalpur Titilagarh Railway Line

Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri Supakar:

Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the position with regard to the proposed Railway Line from Sambalpur to Titilagarh in South Eastern Railway; and

(b) when the construction of the said line will be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The Engineering Survey is still in progress and a decision regarding its construction is yet to be taken.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri P. K. Deo: May I know whether the preliminary survey of the line and land acquisition has been completed?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As I said the engineering survey is in progress.

Shri Supakar: When did the survey start?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I thought I made myself quite clear that the survey is in progress.

Shri Supakar: When did it start?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: After the surveys have been completed, then the decision will be taken.

Mr. Speaker: When did the survey start. The hon. Minister is in possession of the information or not.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It started in 1955.

Shri Supakar: How long will it take to complete the survey?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It depends on various factors. It is very difficult to give the date. When the work is being carried out on the field, it is not possible to give the dates. But I can tell the hon. Member for his satisfaction that even if the survey report is received, there is no likelihood of its being taken up for construction during the Second Five Year Plan period.

Cement Scarcity

*41. **Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the scarcity of cement in the flood affected areas;

(b) whether adequate arrangements have been made for the supply of the same before the next rainy season; and

(c) whether for the future the Government propose to take any special steps for sufficient supply of cement

to the areas which might be affected by floods?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) In regard to the execution of flood protection works with which the Government of India are concerned, no report regarding shortage of cement has been received.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: May I know whether Government ever tried to know the quantity of cement required in the flood-affected areas last year?

Shri S. K. Patil: Of course it always tries to ascertain the quantity required. So far as this work is concerned, we had enough cement and therefore there was no difficulty on that score.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know the quota of cement allotted for the flood-affected area in the State of Assam?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): The flood protection works are mainly earthen embankments undertaken or raising of villages and certain other measures. The cement required is only for small culverts or *nullahs* for which no shortage is felt. But if we take on the whole the irrigation and power projects, then we do experience some shortage.

Pandit D. N. Tiwari: The question relates to the scarcity of cement in flood-affected areas not only for government works but for public works also. May I know whether any direction has been given or any quota fixed for giving cement to flood-affected people, or it is given from the general stock?

Shri S. K. Patil: So far as the cement position is concerned we have less cement than we required. That is true. Against our total production of nearly 7 million tons our requirements are somewhere double, that is 14 million. Therefore there is bound to be some kind of scarcity for some time. But in relation to this question which relates to the flood areas, there is no difficulty so far as works under the charge of the Government of India are concerned. So far as the States are concerned there are no reports to us that they have experienced any difficulty on that score.

Sugar Export

*42. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:**
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been great increase in the consumption of sugar in the country; and

(b) the quantity of sugar exported in 1956-57?

The Deputy Minister of Food (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Yes Sir. The consumption increased from about 16.6 lakh tons in 1952-53 to 19.4 lakh tons in 1955-56. During the current season it may exceed 20 lakh tons.

(b) Upto the end of March 31, 1957, 59 contracts for the export of about 79,000 tons had been made of which, 22,000 tons had been actually exported.

Pandit D. N. Tiwari: May I know the total manufacture of sugar this year?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It will be about 20,00,000 tons.

Pandit D. N. Tiwari: If there is no surplus, then what is the need to export it?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): In the first place, the assumption that there is no surplus is wrong. In the second place, we want foreign exchange and, therefore, we are exporting. It is a very good sign.

Pandit D. N. Tiwari: Sir, on a point of personal explanation. The hon. Minister had just said that the point that there is no surplus is wrong...

Shri A. P. Jain: The assumption, I said.

Mr. Speaker: The assumption that there will be no surplus in the current year.

Pandit D. N. Tiwari: But the hon. the Deputy Minister has given the reply that the consumption is more than 20 lakh tons. So my assumption that there is no surplus is correct.

Shri A. P. Jain: There is some such thing as carryover from last year; and the carryover from last year was more than 5 lakh tons.

Shri V. P. Nayar: From the figures given by the hon. Minister it appears that there has been an increase of about 25 to 30 per cent in the consumption. I want to know what is the profit made by the industry on account of this increased production, and if they had made a profit whether it has been shared by labour.

Mr. Speaker: All that does not arise out of this question. Shri Kasliwal.

Shri V. P. Nayar: It does, Sir.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know the target for export for 1957-58?

Shri A. P. Jain: We have not fixed any rigid target. The original target was 50,000 tons. We increased it to 1 lakh tons, and now we want to export as much as we possibly can.

Shri Joachim Alva: In the last Parliament I enquired of the hon. Minister whether Government had a proposal for a State Trading Corporation for the export of sugar, and he replied in the negative. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether he has revised his opinion since then.

Shri A. P. Jain: The opinion is where it was.

रतलाम और गोधरा रेलवे लाइन

*४३. **श्री डामर :** क्या रेलवे मंत्री १६ अगस्त, १९५६ के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ११४४ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि पश्चिम रेलवे पर रतलाम और गोधरा के बीच लाइन को दोहरा करने पर कितना खर्च आने का अनुमान है ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज़ खां) : कुल मिलाकर लगभग ८.५ करोड़ रुपये खर्च होने का अनुमान है ।

श्री डामर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि यह कार्य कब तक सम्पन्न हो जायेगा ?

श्री शाहनवाज़ खां : खयाल है कि यह सन् ५८ के आखिर तक खत्म हो जायेगा ।

श्री डामर : यह लाइन रतलाम से गोधरा तक ही बनायी जावेगी या आगे भी बढ़ायी जायेगी ?

श्री शाहनवाज़ खां : फिलहाल तो इतनी ही रहेगी ।

Sugar Cane

*44. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total cane crushed in 1956-57 and the average percentage of recovery therefrom;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the year 1956-57 the percentage of recovery was low as compared to the corresponding previous season and especially in North Bihar;

(c) the reason for the low percentage; and

(d) the steps taken to increase recovery?

The Deputy Minister of Food (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) to (d). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 16].

श्री विभूति मिश्र : स्टेटमेंट में दिया हुआ है : "Arrangements" were also made to supply disease-free seeds of improved varities with high sucrose content" मैं जानना चाहता हूं सरकार द्वारा किस प्रकार का सीड दिया गया है। क्या ऐसा सीड दिया गया था कि जिसमें ईल्ड ज्यादा हो या ऐसा कि जिसमें सूक्रोज ज्यादा हो क्योंकि सूक्रोज ज्यादा होने से मिल वालों को फायदा होगा और ईल्ड ज्यादा होने से किसानों को फायदा होगा। क्या यह सीड किसानों के फायदे को ध्यान में रख कर दिया गया था ?

श्री एम० वी० कृष्णप्पा : इस साल में रिकवरी कम हुई है इसलिए मिल वालों को ज्यादा नफा नहीं होगा।

श्री सिंहासन सिंह : सवाल तो बीज देने का है, रिकवरी का नहीं है।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : ३३० नम्बर के बीज के सम्बन्ध में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि उसमें सूक्रोज बहुत ज्यादा है और ईल्ड बहुत कम है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकार जो सीड इस साल सप्लाई करने जा रही है वह किस किस्म का होगा, ऐसा कि जिसमें ईल्ड ज्यादा होगा या ऐसा कि जिसमें सूक्रोज ज्यादा होगा।

खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री अ० प्र० जैन) : हम ऐसा बीज देने जा रहे हैं जिसमें ईल्ड भी ज्यादा होगी और रिकवरी भी ज्यादा होगी।

श्री सिंहासन सिंह : इस सीड का नम्बर क्या है ?

श्री ए० पी० जैन : यह सब का सब काम इंडियन काउंसिल आव एग्रीकल्चरल रिसर्च के हाथ में है। जैसी वह स्कीम निकालेंगे उसके मुताबिक दिया जायेगा।

Aerodrome at Kozhikode

†

*45. { **Shri Kumaran:**
Shri A. K. Gopalan:

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 310 on the 22nd November, 1956, and state the present stage of implementation of the proposal to build an aerodrome at Kozhikode in Kerala?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): The site for an aerodrome at Kozhikode has since been selected by the Civil Aviation Department but a detailed survey has yet to be carried out by the Central Public Works Department for framing an estimate of the work before further action is taken.

Shri Punnoose: When was this proposal for an aerodrome at Kozhikode made? When was the place selected? At what stage is the proposal now?

Shri Humayun Kabir: In the last year, during the tour of the then Minister of Communications in that area, a request was made to him and he promised to examine the question sympathetically. Since then, the Director General of Civil Aviation has examined the site and a preliminary survey has been finished. The detailed survey will require money. Because we are not sure of the financial position during the Second Plan period, a detailed survey has not yet been undertaken.

Shri Joachim Alva: Has the Government of India got a definite plan in the matter of the construction of aerodromes or is it just constructing them in a haphazard manner?

Shri Humayun Kabir: There is a definite plan and an order of priority which is now being considered.

Railway Week Celebrations

*46. { **Shri P. C. Bose:**
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Railway Week" was observed in important Railway Stations all over India by organising Exhibitions during the 2nd week of April, 1957;

(b) the special features of the Exhibition; and

(c) the number of people who visited the Exhibitions organised in connection with the Railway Week in April, 1957?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 17].

Shri P. C. Bose: In view of the great educative value of the exhibition to the public, may I know whether any arrangement was made to give publicity to the exhibition and provide facilities to the public to witness the exhibition?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Yes, Sir. Due publicity was given and a lot of people came to see this exhibition.

Shri Supakar: May I know if one of the special features of the Railway Week was the exhibition of numerous Congress Flags in Mogalsarai junction?

Mr. Speaker: All right. Sometimes the Chakra is taken for the Congress Flag.

Shri Supakar: Will the Minister enquire if it was a fact...?

Mr. Speaker: The Question-hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Small Pox in Delhi

*46-A. **Shri Ansar Harvani:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases of small pox in Delhi were reported in the months of March and April, 1957 and the number of death had increased over previous years in corresponding months; and

(b) what measures were adpoted to combat the epidemic?

Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) A statement showing numbers of reported attacks of small-pox and death therefrom in March and April, 1957 and in corresponding months of previous three years is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 18].

(b) The following measures were adopted:

(1) Free mass vaccination against small-pox.

(2) Compulsory notification of cases to Health authorities.

(3) Removal of cases to the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

भारत-पाकिस्तान नहरी पानी विवाद

*४७ { श्री श्रीनारायण दास :
श्री ल० ना० मिश्र :
श्री कासलीवाल :
श्री दी० चं० शर्मा :
श्री सें० वें० रामस्वामी :
श्रीमती रकेश्वरी सिन्हा :
पंडित मु० दि० भ गव :
श्रीमती इला प चौधरी :
श्री तिम्मय्या :
श्री न० रा० मुनिस्वामी :

क्या सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच नहरी पानी विवाद के सम्बन्ध में, जिसे

कि बीच-बचाव के लिये विश्व बैंक को सौंपा गया था, कोई अन्तिम समझौता हो गया है; और

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो बातचीत की वर्तमान स्थिति क्या है ?

सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्री (श्री स० का० पाटील) : (क) और (ख). भारत और पाकिस्तान नहरी पानी विवाद के बारे में अभी कोई अन्तिम समझौता नहीं हुआ है । विश्व बैंक के सुझाव पर भारत और पाकिस्तान की सरकारें बैंक के सहयोग से किये जाने वाले सहकारी कार्य का समय ६ महीने, यानी ३० सितम्बर, १९५७ तक, और बढ़ाने के लिये सहमत हो गई है ।

नहरी पानी विवाद बैंक को बीच-बचाव के लिये नहीं सौंपा गया है । बैंक ने अपनी सेवाएं दोनों सरकारों को केवल इसलिये दी हैं कि उन्हें आपस में समझौता करने में सहायता मिल सके ।

National Construction Corporation

Shri L. N. Mishra:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Construction Corporation has submitted any blue-print as regards its programme to Government;

(b) whether the Corporation has taken up any of the River Valley Projects for execution; and

(c) if so, the name of the project and the conditions under which it is working?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) The Corporation has been set up for the execution of such projects or project works as are entrusted to it by the State Governments. The question of preparing a blue-print of its programme, in advance does not arise.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Construction of two aqueducts at estimated rates plus 15% for overheads and excavation of 7 miles of canal at schedule of rates within Rajasthan territory and excavation of 5 miles of canal at the schedule of rates within Madhya Pradesh territory, on the Chambal Project Canal System. The Corporation is working on the same conditions as are applicable to other contractors on the Chambal Project.

Postage on Books

*49. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 149 on the 19th November, 1956 and state:

(a) whether Government have since completed consideration of the report of the Committee set up to increase the rate of postage on books; and

(b) if so, what is the decision taken thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The Committee was set up to recommend to Government, *inter alia*, the rates of postage to be prescribed for the transmission of 'Books' in the inland post, as distinguished from other matter that may be allowed transmission at book packet rates. The recommendations of the Committee have been considered by Government and their decision would be announced soon.

(b) Does not arise.

Madras Port

*50. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of Madras port

and to what extent it falls short of the demand:

(b) how long the ships have to wait outside to obtain a berth: and

(c) the steps that are being taken to expand the port?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The optimum handling capacity of the Port of Madras is of the order of 1·75 million tons per year but the Port has been required to handle as much as 2 to 2½ million tons per year ever since 1950. Though the Port has been working on three shifts to handle this additional cargo beyond its capacity, certain amount of delay to ships has been inevitable.

(b) The waiting period of ships to obtain a berth varies from time to time. For example, in the first 26 days of April, 1957, the total waiting period for 32 ships which waited for berths was 100 days or an average of 3·1 days per ship.

(c) A project for increasing the number of quay berths from 9 to 17 has been sanctioned. The construction of two of these berths is in progress.

Ramagundam-Nizamabad Rail Link

***51. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 18 on the 20th March, 1957 and state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to carry out final location survey for the Ramagundam-Nizamabad rail link;

(b) if not the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether the Railway Board contemplates giving any priority for this rail-link in view of the fact that it is a part of the direct link between Vizagapatam and Bombay Ports?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No Sir.

(b) Ramagundam-Nizamabad line forms part of Latur-Ramagundam Project, final Location Survey for which was carried out during 1945-46. Hence no fresh Engineering Survey is necessary. The costs are, however, being brought up to date.

(c) No Sir. This line is not included in Railways 2nd Five Year Plan.

Canal Water Dues from Pakistan

***52. Shri Bahadur Singh:**
Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
D. C. Sharma:
Shri Damar:

Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have reminded the Pakistan Government of the non-payment of Canal water dues;

(b) the number of quarters for which the Pakistan Government has not paid for water drawn under the 1948 agreement;

(c) the total amount of non-payment dues; and

(d) the amount Pakistan owed upto the 31st March, 1957 under the "disputed head" and the "undisputed head"?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Payment on account of canal water charges outstanding from Pakistan is for 28 quarters in the case of "disputed" charges and 2 quarters in the case of "undisputed" charges.

(c) The total amount due from Pakistan up to the quarter ending the 30th June, 1957 under "disputed" and "undisputed" is Rs. 81,93,095 and Rs. 18,41,821. respectively.

(d) The canal water charges outstanding from Pakistan as on the 31st March, 1957 under "disputed" and "undisputed" were Rs. 78,38,555/- and Rs. 23,45,071/- respectively.

Hirakud Canal Irrigation

*53. **Shri Supakar:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) the acreage of land made ready for irrigation from canals from the Hirakud Dam Project; and

(b) how many acres are being actually irrigated from Hirakud canals at present?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) 1,56,721 acres.

(b) 89,483 acres.

Air Crafts of Indian Airlines Corporation

*54. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the present strength of Air Crafts owned by the Indian Airlines Corporation and Air India International separately and type of their manufacture;

(b) which type of manufacture is found, from performance and service point of view, to be best for inland and foreign service separately; and

(c) how long it will take for the Government to replace the present aircrafts with these types?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) to (c). I lay a statement on the Table of Lok Sabha [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 19]

उज्जैन-इन्दौर रेल सम्पर्क

*५५. **श्री डागर :** क्या रेलवे मंत्री २८ मई, १९५६ के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या २६०७ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पश्चिम रेलवे पर देवास के रास्ते उज्जैन को इन्दौर से मिलाने वाली नई रेलवे लाइन कब चालू होगी; और

(ख) इस लाइन पर रेलवे विभाग द्वारा कुल कितना खर्चा होने का अनुमान है ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खां) : (क) आशा है, दिसम्बर, १९५७ तक इस लाइन पर गाड़ियां चलने लगेंगी ।

(ख) इस लाइन पर लगभग २.६ करोड़ रुपये की लागत का अनुमान है ।

Electrification of Howrah-Kharagpur Line

*56. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to refer to the White Paper on the Railway Budget for 1957-58 and state:

(a) the manner in which the heaviest load on South Eastern Railway will be tackled;

(b) the preliminary steps that have been taken or are proposed to be taken to augment line capacity by the electrification of the Howrah-Kharagpur section of the South-Eastern Railway; and

(c) whether any reference has been made to foreign experts to examine the question of opening a line to Geonkhali and whether the experts will also examine the possibility of opening a port for export of Iron Ore and Coal?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 20].

Sea-Erosion in Kerala

*57. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
Shri V. P. Nayar:
Shri Kodiyan:

Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the investigation of methods to prevent recurring sea-erosion on the coasts of Kerala;

(b) the progress achieved by means of protective works;

(c) whether it is a fact that fresh damage by erosion has been caused this year also; and

(d) if so, where and to what extent?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) to (d). A statement giving the requisite information furnished by the Kerala Government is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 21]

Malaria Control Scheme

*58. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) the present position with regard to Malaria Control Scheme;

(b) whether any assessment of the work done and results achieved so far has been made; and

(c) if so, whether a copy of the report of such assessment will be laid on the Table of the Sabha?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Out of the 200 Malaria Control Units allotted to the States 153·25 Units have started functioning.

(b) and (c). No formal assessment of the work has yet been made but periodical reports received from the participating States indicate that as against about 75 million people reported to suffer from malaria every year prior to 1953, the number has come down to about 20 million in 1956.

Electrification of Madras-Arkonam Railway Line

*59. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether in view of the heavy traffic between Madras and Arkonam there is any scheme to electrify the line?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): No, Sir, it is not expected that on this section, during the Second Plan, traffic would increase to saturation with steam traction.

Posts and Telegraphs Department Museum

*60. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 674 on the 30th November, 1956 and state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken as regards the setting up of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department Museum; and

(b) if so, the nature of the decision?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Tentative plans for the establishment of a P & T Museum have been drawn up. These are at present being examined.

Hailstorm-damage in Delhi

*61. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any loss of crop occurred in Delhi area as a result of hailstorm in the month of March this year;

(b) if so, the estimated total loss caused and the number of villages affected;

(c) measures taken by Government to help the villagers in this connection;

(d) whether Prime Minister who visited the affected areas gave any suggestions or made any recommendations to meet the situation; and

(e) how far these recommendations have been carried out so far?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes.

(b) The assessment made of the extent of damage caused to Rabi crops by hailstorm in 68 villages where the damage was estimated at 50% and above indicates a loss of Rs. 18,98,584.

(c) The following relief measures have been taken to help the villagers in the affected areas:—

(i) 15 food-grain fair price shops have been opened.

(ii) Remission of land revenue has been decided upon.

(iii) Recovery of all Taccavi instalment dues has been postponed.

(iv) A sum of Rs. 5 lakh is being distributed as fodder and seed Taccavi.

(v) A sum of Rs. 25,000/- has been sanctioned for distribution of gratuitous relief to the indigent, infirm, aged and uncared for.

(vi) A sum of Rs. 15,000/- out of the Prime Minister's relief fund and a sum of Rs. 10,000/- out of the Indian Peoples' Famine Trust Fund has been allotted for relief in the affected areas.

(d) and (e). Since all possible measures to help the villagers had already been taken, the question of making any recommendations or suggestions by the Prime Minister did not arise.

डूंगरपुर-बांसवाड़ा-रतलाम रेल सम्पर्क

*६२. **श्री डामर** : क्या **रेलवे** मंत्री १४ दिसम्बर, १९५६ के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ११९२ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या प्रस्तावित डूंगरपुर-बांसवाड़ा-रतलाम रेलवे लाइन का सर्वेक्षण पूरा हो चुका है;

(ख) उक्त रेलवे लाइन की कुल लम्बाई कितनी होगी; और

(ग) इस लाइन पर कौन कौन से मुख्य स्टेशन पड़ेंगे ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज़ खां) : (क) इंजिनीयरिंग सर्वे पूरा हो चुका है और यातायात सर्वे (Traffic survey) हो रहा है ।

(ख) ११६.८७ मील मीटर लाइन और ११९.१९ मील बड़ी लाइन ।

(ग) (१) रतलाम
(२) सैलाना
(३) सरवान
(४) बांसवाड़ा
(५) परतापुर-गढ़ी
(६) भिलोड़ा
(७) तमटिया
(८) डूंगरपुर

Passenger Amenities on North-Eastern Railway

18. Shri Shree Narayan Das: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) what passenger amenities have been provided at the stations on the Mansi-Supaul Branch line of North-Eastern Railway during the first Five Year Plan; and

(b) whether any schemes of development and passenger amenities have been drawn up for these stations during the Second Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The particulars of amenities provided at stations of Mansi-Supaul Branch line during the First Five Year Plan are:—

1.	At Koparia Station	Third class passenger hall and Vendors' stall.
2.	Saharsa Jn. Station.	Bathing cubicles, drinking water fountain, sanitary latrines on platform, third class passenger hall, flush latrines in upper class waiting rooms, Refreshment room and six platform benches.
3.	Supaul Station	Vendor's stall, third class passenger hall and upper class waiting room.
		Six platform benches and one hand pump.
4.	Badla Ghat Koparia Simri-Bakhtiyarpur Sonbarsa-Kachery Panchgachia and Parsarma.	One hand pump and six platform benches were provided at each of the stations.

(b) Yes but the programme drawn for each year is subject to approval by the Passenger Amenities Committee and availability of funds.

Community Development Programme

19. Shri Shree Narayan Das: Will the Minister of **Community Development** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reports submitted by foreign experts about the Community Development Programme in the country have been scrutinised and studied;

(b) if so, whether defects and shortcomings pointed out by them have been summarised and pinpointed for the guidance of officers and workers; and

(c) the steps taken and measures adopted to rectify such defects and shortcomings?

The Minister of Community Development (Shri S. K. Dey): . (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The Reports were considered by Development Commissioners at a meeting held in New Delhi on 10th and 11th December, 1956. The following procedure was recommended for taking action on these Reports:—

(i) The main conclusions and recommendations contained in the Reports should be considered both by the State Development Committee of Ministers as well as by the Advisory Committee consisting of the Chief Secretary, Development Commissioner and Secretaries and Heads of the Departments.

(ii) Important points in the Reports should be taken up for discussion at the Inter State Seminars.

(iii) Where points made require specific action by the State Governments without further discussion or consideration, such action should be taken as early as possible. The recommendations of the meeting were forwarded to State Government on December 18, 1956, for necessary action.

(iv) Important points made in the Reports were also taken into account in the deliberations of the Development Commissioners' Conference held at Mussorie in April, 1957.

Power Requirements for Delhi

20. Shri H. C. Mathur: Will the Miinster of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state the number of applications for fresh power connections in Delhi which are pending and for how long?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): The number of applications pending with the Delhi Electricity Power Control Board as on the 30th April, 1957, was 12,983. These applications have been* pending as shown below:—

	Date from which pending.
(i) Applications for Domestic lighting etc :	
(a) in areas where it is technically feasible to supply power	April, 1957.
(b) in areas where it is not technically feasible to supply power.	1953.
(ii) Applications for Domestic Power	January, 1957.
(iii) Applications for small industrial loads.	April, 1957.
(iv) Applications for big industrial loads.	1948.

*NOTE:—Most of the demands for big industries pending since 1948 are from the areas other than Najafgarh Road and Shahadara—the two areas earmarked for big industries. It is not considered desirable from the health and sanitation points of view to set up big industries from which these demands are pending. Some applications were made in the hope that licenses for setting up industries in these areas will be obtained but this hope has not been realised.

Community Projects in Punjab

21. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Community Development be pleased to state:

(a) the total outlay incurred in the Community Projects in the Punjab upto the end of April, 1957; and

(b) the outlay incurred in connection with the establishments on the Projects?

The Minister of Community Development (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) Expenditure incurred upto January, 1957 is Rs. 1,73,29,246/-. Later figures are not available.

(b) Rs. 42,30,153/-.

भारतीय जहाजों द्वारा स्वेज नहर का उपयोग

२२. **श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** क्या **परिवहन और संचार मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि स्वेज नहर के यातायात के लिये पुनः खुलने के बाद से कितने भारतीय जहाज इसमें से गुजर चुके हैं ?

परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : स्वेज नहर के यातायात के फिर से खुलने के बाद ७ मई, १९५७ तक, इसमें से १४ भारतीय जहाज गुजर चुके हैं ।

Delhi Junction Station

23. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1334 on the 19th December, 1956 and state the progress made in the scheme for remodelling of Delhi Junction Station?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): The plan for remodelling Delhi Metre Gauge Yard has been finalised and the work has already been taken in hand.

The plan for remodelling Delhi Broad Gauge Yard has been drawn up and along with the estimate this is under examination.

Anti-Corruption Organisation on Northern Railway

24. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state the work done during 1956-57 by the Anti-Corruption Organisation of the Northern Railway?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 22].

Chambel Project

25. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the Chambel Project;

(b) the expenditure already incurred and that anticipated and in what proportion the Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Central Government will share the investment;

(c) total area to be irrigated in the two States separately;

(d) the quantity of Hydro-electric energy which will be produced by this Project and quantity to be used by the two States separately;

(e) by what time the production of electricity will start; and

(f) when it is expected to supply electricity to the cities of Beawar and Ajmer?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) The progress on the Chambel Project (Stage I) up to the end of March, 1957, is as follows:—

I. *Gandhi Sagar Dam and Power House*:

(i) DAM

Masonry and concrete have been laid to the extent of 36% of the total quantity involved. Over a major portion of its length, the Dam has been constructed up to about 75 feet above the bed level.

(ii) POWER HOUSE.

90% of the excavation for the draft channel has been completed.

II. *Kotah Barrage.*

Rock cutting has been done up to 80% and stone masonry to the extent of 69%. Orders have been placed for the Barrage Gates.

III. *Canals.*

Rock-cutting and earthwork excavation have been done up to 51% and 21% respectively. The work on cross-drainages is in progress.

IV. *Power House and Transmission Lines.*

Orders have been placed for the Generating Plant. Surveys in respect of transmission lines in Madhya Pradesh have been completed; orders have been placed for some of the materials and equipment and orders for the rest are being placed. In Rajasthan, surveys in respect of transmission lines are in hand and estimates are being prepared.

(b) (i) Expenditure incurred up to the end of March, 1957, is as follows:

Rajasthan: About Rs. 3.62 lakhs.
Madhya Pradesh: About Rs. 6·69 lakhs.

(ii) Anticipated expenditure is as follows:

Rajasthan: About Rs. 12·98 lakhs.

Madhya Pradesh: Rs. 24·74 lakhs.

(iii) The cost of the scheme will be shared by the two participating State Governments in proportion to the benefits derived by them. The Central Government is only giving loans to the two State Governments to cover their share of the expenditure.

(c) About 5·5 lakh acres in Madhya Pradesh and about 5·5 lakh acres in Rajasthan.

(d) Power to be produced by State I of the Project will be 75,000 k.w. at 60% load factor; this power will be used by the two States in equal proportion.

(e) In 1959-60.

(f) In 1960.

Aerodromes

26. Pandit M. B. Bhargava: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aerodromes existing in India on the 15th August, 1947 used for Civil Aviation;

(b) the number of aerodromes existing at present;

(c) the total amount of investment made in the construction of new aerodromes and in improving the existing aerodromes since the 15th August, 1947;

(d) what new aerodromes are likely to be constructed during the Second Five Year Plan in various States;

(e) whether it is proposed to construct an aerodrome somewhere in the District of Ajmer (Rajasthan); and

(f) if so, by what time the aerodrome will start functioning?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) 44 Aerodromes were maintained by the Civil Aviation Department on the 15th August, 1947.

(b) 84 Aerodromes are at present maintained by the Civil Aviation Department.

(c) Rs. 12·31 crores approximately.

(d) Construction of new aerodromes at the following places is now in hand:—

(1) Tulihal (Manipur)
(2) Malda (West Bengal)
(3) Jogbani, (4) Raxaul, (5) Haldwani (U.P.) } (Bihar)

Subject to availability of funds, it is proposed to construct new aerodromes at two or three other places.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Postal Establishments of Banglore

27. Shri N. Keshava: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state whether Government have any proposals for the upgrading of the postal establishments of the city of Bangalore from B to A Class?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): No.

रेलवे पर दावे

२८. श्री डामर : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पश्चिम रेलवे के रतलाम डिवीजन में रेल विभाग ने व्यापारियों को १९५५ से अब तक उनके माल की हानि के लिये कुल कितने मूल्य दावे चुकाये हैं;

(ख) इस समय कुल कितने दावे विचाराधीन हैं; और

(ग) रतलाम डिवीजन के प्रत्येक रेलवे स्टेशन पर अब तक कितने दावों का भुगतान किया जा चुका है ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज़ खां) : सूचना मंगायी जा रही है और सभा-पटल पर रख दी जायेगी ।

Cochin Port Administration

29. Shri Warrior: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cochin Port Administration have recognised any union of the employees of the Port;

(b) the number of unions of the employees in the Port; and

(c) the membership of each union?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Two unions namely, the Cochin Port Workers' Union, Thoppumpady and the Cochin Port Staff Association have been recognised by the Cochin Port Administration.

(b) Six.

(c) The Port Administration has no up to date information regarding the membership of the Unions. The Cochin Port Workers' Union, when granted recognition in April, 1951, claimed to have on its rolls 852 out of a total strength of 1504.

Corruption on Railways

30. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers given punishment in 1956-57 in all zones of Railways for corruption;

(b) the nature of punishments given; and

(c) the number of such cases still pending for decision?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha in due course.

Reserved Posts in Railways

31. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes in each of the Railways in 1956-57; and

(b) the actual number of vacancies filled by Scheduled Castes on each Railway during the same period?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha in due course.

Bhakra Nangal Dam

32. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state the amount of money spent on Bhakra Nangal Dam so far?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): Rs. 38·58 crores has been spent on the Bhakra Dam upto the 28th February, 1957.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

BUDGET ESTIMATES OF DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION FOR 1957-58

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Budget Estimates of the Damodar Valley Corporation for the year 1957-58, under section (3) of section 44 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948.

[*Placed in Library. See* No. S-25/57].

ANNUAL REPORT OF HINDUSTAN SHIPYARD PRIVATE LTD. FOR 1955-56.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report of Hindustan Shipyard Private Limited for the year 1955-56.

[*Placed in Library. See* No. S-26/57].

AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF DELHI ROAD TRANSPORT AUTHORITY FOR 1954-55.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 38 of the Delhi Road Transport Authority Act, 1950, a copy of each of the following papers in respect of the Delhi Road Transport Authority for the year 1954-55:

(i) Balance-sheets;

(ii) Profit and loss accounts together with Operating Accounts;

(iii) Financial Review by the General Manager; and

(iv) Audit Reports on the Annual Accounts.

[*Placed in Library. See* No. S-27/57].

REPRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

Mr. Speaker: There are some petitions to be presented. The first two are to be presented by Dr. Gangadhara Siva. The hon. Member is absent. There is one more petition which is also to be presented by the same hon. Member. But the hon. Member is absent.

MOTION ON ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT—*contd.*

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Thirumal Rao and seconded by Shri M. P. Mishra on the 14th May, 1957, namely:—

> "That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 13th May, 1957.".

The House will also take up further consideration of the amendments to this motion moved yesterday. Regarding the amendments, I desire to state this. Ordinarily, amendments to the Motion of Thanks are neither admitted nor circulated after the motion has been moved in the House. It has been ruled previously that there shall be no amendment tabled when once the motion has been moved, because it cannot be expected that from day to day amendments should go on being tabled, making the debate more and more rambling. Further, those hon. Members who take part in the debate on the earlier day would have no opportunity to refer to those amendments which are tabled later.

But, considering the fact that a large number of Members are new to the House, I have relaxed the period of notice, as a special case, this year. Therefore, all amendments received until yesterday have been circulated to Members.

I would suggest that such of the hon. Members as could not move their amendments yesterday may hand in within 15 minutes to the Secretary at the Table slips intimating the number of amendments in their names, which they wish to move; and if the amendments are otherwise admissible, they will be treated as moved. The Chair will later on announce the numbers of the amendments proposed to be moved by the Members.

Acharya Kripalani (Sitamarhi): I am sorry to say that the Address of the President has a ring of formality about it. It indicates no ways and means by which Government propose to face present difficulties or the difficulties that are to come in the near future. It (the address) gives us no idea of the legislative programme before Parliament during this Session. There is nothing in the Address to enthuse the common man.

Yet, there is one happy feature in the Address, and it is this, that for the first time in ten years, the foreign policy has yielded the place of pride to home policy. Is it because we have slackened our efforts to project ourselves on the international scene? It may be like that, because our diplomats are no more in the air, descending periodically at the *durbar* —gates of a Prime Minister or a President or a dictator. They have come back to India and are concerning themselves with affairs at home and I hope, in course of time, they will be able to make the discovery of India.

I wonder if this slump in international affairs is not due to the fact that we have found that the world goes its own way irrespective of our efforts at preaching non-violence and peace, in spite of our efforts to tell the world the obvious, that war solves no problems, that it raises as many problems and more than it solves. Is it that neither our doctrine of *Panchseel* nor our bhai-bhai-ing any more holds currency in the world, whether within the imperial Commonwealth or in the U.N.O. or round about us? Is it also that we have discovered that the doctrine of co-existence does not apply to imperialist nations who have their own interests and who want to expand at the expense of smaller nations?

However, I find there is one kind of co-existence which yet goes on in the world, and that is the co-existence of big imperial nations with their small neighbours. It is a queer kind of co-existence because in that co-existence the lamb (Hungary) finds its place in the belly of polar bear Russia. It is certainly a matter of gratification that the lion of England was not able to make Egypt co-exist in that fashion in its stomach.

I am also glad that the reference to foreign affairs has been, as it ought to be, brief. But I am sorry that no reference has been made to problems that intimately concern us. Take, for instance, Goa. Time after time, we have been told that Goa is an integral part of India and the Government will do everything in its power to see that this territory is made a part and parcel of India, and that India will not be free unless this small foreign pocket is added to her. But this time there is no such reference, in spite of the fact that many of our nationals, men and women, are rotting in jails.

There is also no reference to Ceylon where many of the resident Indians have lost their citizenship rights. There is a passing reference to the Jarring Report about Kashmir. What the Government propose to do in this matter only the gods know.

It is natural that in home affairs the first place should be given to Five Year Plan, because it has created certain difficulties and these difficulties are appreciated by even our brave Finance Minister because he has to find the money and he knows he cannot find the necessary money.

Let us now examine what has happened to this Plan so far. We can do so only if we examine the assumptions on which this Plan was based. These assumptions were principally three. The first was that the world would be at peace; the second was that the prices of primary commodities will not rise; and the third was that our foreign exchange position will not worsen. But you will find that all these 3 conditions have failed.

First of all, there is no peace in the world. Of course, we did not expect that the cold war would disappear, but we thought that it had stabilised itself and people will be able to go

about—nations will be able to go about—their business freely. But, even when we were being assured by our diplomats that the world was moving towards peace, we had sudden eruptions in Egypt and in Eastern Europe. What happened was that the Suez Canal was for a long time closed and what we could get from outside was less than we would have got otherwise and it cost us more. It is a matter of gratification that the Suez Canal has been reopened; but prices when they once rise have a tendency to remain there for some time to come.

The second condition of success was that the primary articles of food and cloth would be stationary in price. This has not happened; especially, it has not happened in the matter of food. We were told that the Five Year Plan had been successful in increasing food production so that in 1955 the country was self-sufficient in food. Though it is not there, the Prime Minister told us that the second Five Year Plan was aiming at 40 per cent increase in food production and a proportionate reduction in prices. Not only that, very wonderfully we were told that we will produce agricultural products to such an extent that we will be able to export and earn the much needed foreign exchange. Nothing of the sort has happened. When we (the opposition) said that the easing of the food situation was not due to the Five Year Plan but due to a couple of good monsoons, we were assured that it was not so. Today when the food condition is stringent and the prices are rising we are told that it is Nature that is to blame; or, is it that new babies have been born who instead of taking their mothers' milk have consumed away our grain?

We have been importing food, when we thought that we will be exporting it. We have been importing food and agricultural produce to a very enormous extent. We are continuing to import them. We got something from America. We thought that what we got from abroad was just to introduce some flexibility in our economy and also to check the inflationary trends, that were evident to everybody but the Government in our country. But, what have we done to these imports? We have simply consumed away all that came from the foreign lands. One wonders what happened to the extra food that was produced by so many river valley schemes and by the Five Year Plan and by those 220,000 villages of India where the Community Projects and National Extension Service Blocks are working. One does not know where all this food produced inside and imported from outside goes. I have a suspicion and it is this, that there is no deficit in food but the prices are rising because there is inflation in our economy. I have also a suspicion that it is not dearth of food due to which people are starving and dying but it is really their incapacity to earn money. It is unemployment, it is inflation that are responsible to the famine conditions that we find in Bihar, in U.P., in Bengal and in the South.

An Hon. Member: In Kashmir also.

Acharya Kripalani: In Kashmir also, I am told. Kashmir can always get food from here whether we have plenty or we are starving.

The third assumption was that the foreign exchange position would not deteriorate. The foreign exchange position has so deteriorated that it is considered even by the Finance Minister, to be dangerous, to be very critical. We have not been told how these things are to be remedied.

There were further conditions attached to the success of the Plan but I will talk of them later. I was greatly confused during the course of the election. I do not know if the Government will inform me whether the Five Year Plan is a national plan or a Government plan or the plan of the Congress Party. Because, in the elections, everywhere it was said that one should vote for the Congress because it had drawn up the Plan—

[Acharya Kripalani]

"You vote for the Congress because it wants to carry out this Plan." I am yet to learn that a political party has finances enough and technical personnel enough to draw up a Five Year Plan. I would like to be informed by the Treasury Benches whether this Plan for which we are asked to sacrifice is really a national plan or a Government plan or the plan of the Congress....

An Hon. Member: Or an election plan!

Acharya Kripalani:....or an election plan. More than that I would like to know how it happens—is it accidental and our rulers do not do anything designedly even as the English people did not do anything designedly but they somehow came in possession of the Empire—that our Government comes in possession of a favourable position and sticks to it. This favourable position is that every Five Year Plan synchronises with the general elections. This will continue to be so to the end of time because there will not be a time when there will not be an economic plan for the country.

Shri Joachim Alva (Kanara): The hon. Member is misleading the House. He was one of the high-ups in the Congress in 1935 when it constituted the Indian National Planning Committee.

Acharya Kripalani: My friend is only abusing the intelligence of my colleagues by saying that I misguide them. There are greater and more powerful people than myself in the Government to misguide the House, at least the majority of the House.

Shri C. D. Pande (Naini Tal): You cannot misguide even Mrs. Kripalani!

Mr. Speaker: Both the hon. Members are misguiding the House.

Acharya Kripalani: I do not claim to guide or misguide anybody; I am too humble for that. I was saying that three conditions that were at the base of the Plan have not been forthcoming. There are some other, two or three conditions which I would now state. They are that there should be perfect economy in the administration; that there would be no corruption in the administration and that the administration should be efficient. I am afraid, these three subordinate conditions are also not forthcoming.

As for efficiency, inspite of measures to simplify the procedures the financial sanction for some of the schemes taken up last year has not been coming forth even this year. Not only that, the schemes that ought to have been finalised last year have not been finalised yet. That is the measure of efficiency.

As for honesty, I am very glad to say, on account of the pressure of elections and because the Congressmen were themselves saying that people have lost faith in the Congress because of inefficiency and corruption in the Government, the Prime Minister's attention was powerfully drawn to this factor of corruption. But he modified it and said that corruption prevails in the lower levels. The higher levels are quite free from all suspicion. They are just like Caesar's wife. And, actually, Sir, they are like Caesar's wife about whose integrity only her gullible husband was sure but the world was not quite so sure. Here it is the gullible Ministers who are sure about the honesty and integrity in the higher ranks, but the public know much better.

Of course, I must say that there are many honourable people in the higher and lower ranks of the Government, and they do their jobs honestly. But, if you will permit me, Sir, I would like to give a few glaring examples. It must be understood that whatever happens in the higher ranks is not bribery, but it is only irregularity. In the lower ranks it is bribery and in the higher ranks it is irregularity.

There is the Damodar Valley Scheme which has been completed. It was discovered that there were many irregularities. An officer was appointed to probe into those irregularities. He did find certain irregularities; but it is surprising that that very officer was put in charge of the Damodar Valley Scheme and the newspapers now report that there are other fresh irregularities under his regime. I suppose some other officer will be appointed to detect those irregularities and then he will also be put in charge of the Scheme.

Sir, I happened to be, for a little while, the Chairman of, what is called the Railway Corruption Enquiry Committee. I say, and it has been put in my report, that officers in the lower ranks do not hesitate to put the Government to a loss of a few thousand rupees in order to get a small bribe of Rs. 10 or Rs. 15. Not only that, and it is recorded, that the money that is made by the goods clerks, and sometimes the station masters, is so large that even the members of the Railway Board may well feel envious. I have seen the children of these people going for education not in the Indian universities but in foreign universities. When I ask how this happened, they told me that they had ancestral wealth, and yet they became clerks in the goods office.

Then there are very interesting incidents that were exposed in another Committee of which I was a Member for a brief period—the Public Accounts Committee. In the Public Accounts Committee, looking at what happens in the External Affairs Ministry over which our Prime Minister presides, I found that one officer had purchased a car every year. He had taken three cars in three years, and he borrowed money for all these from the Government. One car was purchased, if I mistake not, when he was not there and it was to be used by his wife. I have personal experience that wives use cars more than their husbands. They have more social engagements, and they have a good deal of shopping to do.

There was in one Embassy a silver fruit set, or whatever it is called; I am not familiar with these things. It was a silver set. When the diplomat transferred from the place, it was found that the silver set was getting blacker and blacker. His successor approached the company from which the silver set was bought and the company said: "We would like to see and examine it." The set was sent to them and they examined it. They said that that particular set was never supplied by them. "It does not bear our hallmark," they said. Then it was discovered that the silver set had been taken away by the former diplomat and the explanation given was that his wife—wives are more important than mere husbands—had made a mistake and that a tin set had been left in place of the silver set. It was again....

An Hon. Member: An irregularity.

Acharya Kripalani.....an irregularity, of course. All these are irregularities. It will be far from me to say that any higher officer can be suspect. I have great regard for their ability and efficiency and for the honesty of most of them. But these things are such that they injure the tone of the administration. However one thing is clear that even when the higher officials are men of integrity, they are unable to tackle corruption at the lower levels, nor are the Home Ministries, whether at the Centre or in the States, able to curb this corruption that corrodes the moral life of the country.

Then there is extravagance. We see it here in Delhi and in the capitals. As a matter of fact, our Raj has become just like the native Raj where everything was done for the capital cities and very little,—comparatively speaking—was done for the villages. The villager yet lives in poverty; he lives in his half-cracked mud hut or, even worse, in a straw hut. In cities he comes and finds himself in slums.

[Acharya Kripalani]

There is an effort to clean these slums in the cities. A great effort is made on account of the vigilance of the Prime Minister to clear the slums in Delhi. But the slums in Delhi or in any other capital town cannot be cleansed at all, because the whole of India—I say it with knowledge—is a slum. Go to the villages. You will find no drainage. You will find that people are huddled, 10 to 20, in one small house. You will find that all their property is a few rags and a few earthen pots and nothing more. In the monsoon, one cannot walk in the streets; and one cannot go from village to village. May I submit Sir that all these are slums? If you clean the slums here (in Delhi), next day other slums will grow up because more people will be coming (from the villages). This is an integrated problem. It is no use tackling it in one centre, because there it powerfully affects your eye and is offensive to your nose. These slum conditions have to be eliminated all round.

Further there must be some relation between the poverty of the people and the expenditure of the Government, which goes on ever increasing The Prime Minister has himself complained about the pomp and show that is there in the offices and in the Ministries. I am conscious of the fact that when a great administration is to be conducted, there is need of some ceremony and some kind of show. But, may I submit that the show should be very modest and in keeping with the poverty of the people. Not only that; it should be in keeping with our traditions and with our culture. What have we here? The President came; he has been coming here to the Parliament to deliver his message, for which we are always thankful. And, we are always thankful also to have his *darsan*, because we cannot have his *darsan* unless we go to his place. If we do the next day our name will be in the papers that so and so went to see his old friend, the Rashtrapati. He comes in a carriage and over that carriage is an umbrella. He is a *Chathrapati*. He has lived with us in the jails; we have worked together; we were colleagues. When did he become a *Chathrapati*?

Shri Joachim Alva: Do you want him to ride in a bicycle?

Acharya Kripalani: I want him to be up-to-date and come in a car. I do not want him to ride a carriage that was used in the 15th century by the King of a municipality like England.

Mr. Speaker: Then hon. Member will kindly resume his seat. So far as the general remarks that the Rashtrapati need not come in the coach-and-four and so on are concerned, of course I do not know whether it is not irrelevant or not out of order. But, to say that the individual who occupies it was such and such and therefore for him to carry a Chathra is not correct and so on, is certainly out of place. Whoever might occupy that position, may be a poor man, he occupies that position by the united voice of the entire nation. Is it open to the hon. Member to say that the man who occupies it never in his life enjoyed this? All that I can say is, if the hon. Member wants that a much simpler ceremony than this should be adopted, that is all right; but, to say that he was with me in jail and so on and so fourth, is not necessary and proper.

Acharya Kripalani: I have the utmost respect for the Rashtrapati. He is one of my oldest friends; we have worked together from 1917. I am far from saying anything that is derogatory personally to him. I am talking of the pomp and show about which the Prime Minister talked. Even pomp and show is allowable, but it should be according to our traditions and not according to the traditions that have been left by the imperial government. I say that the carriage in which he comes belongs to the 15th century, the carriage in which the King of a

municipality like England used to go to his *durbar*. I want him to keep to our traditions. I would much prefer that our Rashtrapati came in a *rath* driven by bullocks, which is the very appropriate sign for the Congress party. I am not against that; I am against what the Prime Minister himself denounced. Then I hold that the expenditure on the ministries is in all conscience too heavy. I do not know but I hear that even the electricity bills of some of the ministerial houses go to several hundreds of rupees and even to a thousand rupees. I have seen that the ministers in the provinces draw as much as Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 5,000 if you take into account their salary as well as other perquisites. Everywhere there is extravagance. When I open my post, even for a humble man like myself half the post consists of invitation cards about this, that and the other thing. I say these things not because I want to disparage or criticize anyone, but let me assure you I say it because I feel it. I say it because I see it is wrong, because it is wasteful and we will not be able to fulfil our aims if we go on like this. Already we are in a financial bankruptcy. It is no pleasure for me to criticize a party in which I have been for years since 1907, up to the time that I left it. It is no pleasure for me to criticize my old colleagues. I only say that this is not the way for a poor nation, whose people are dying for want of food and have no education. Education in Russia was given to every citizen in 10 years and in China in a much shorter time. Therefore we have to be very careful about every pie that we spend and we should see that every pie is well spent. The Government is determined to carry on this plan; I say that we cannot carry on this plan unless we cut our coat according to our cloth and unless we are more economical and less showy than we are at present.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Sasaram): I am thankful to the President for the reference which he made to the food problem in the country, especially in Bihar and Eastern U.P. The failure of wheat, linseed, musure and gram in Bihar and Eastern U.P. has created conditions which are bordering on famine. This failure is due to rust and some other crop diseases and these diseases could have been easily cured and especially in this modern age when all sorts of insecticides have been found had there been a little alertness on the part of the experts in our administration. We were told yesterday that there has been about 60 per cent. of damage in our wheat crop. I am not interested whether there has been 60 per cent. or 100 per cent. damage but I am interested only in one point. When the peasants of Bihar and Eastern U.P. were watching restively the extinction of their crops, did the experts in our Ministry here in the Centre or in the States care to visit those fields where the crops were dying? I do say and say emphatically that it would not be possible for the country to co-exist with such an attitude in our administration. We are also told that grain-specials are being rushed to Bihar and Eastern U.P. and larger sums are being advanced for carrying out relief and other works. I do not think that these are proper solutions of this problem, because this practice has created a dole living mentality in the country and I want that this should be stopped. India is a deficit country; Bihar also is a deficit state. Before the Second Five Year Plan was put into execution Bihar had a deficit of about 3,20,000 tons. On the completion of the first Five Year Plan it was officially stated that Bihar has succeeded in achieving an additional food production of about 4,70,000 tons and it was also stated by the Planning Commission and by the Government that the agricultural production in our country has increased by 18 per cent. If such statements are made, naturally it will be asked where has all these food commodities gone and when we recollect the statements of 1955 when it was said by Government spokesmen that they are trying to find out all avenues for exporting agricultural commodities it becomes all the more

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ridiculous. In 1954 we imported about 8 lakh tons of foodgrains at a cost of about Rs. 47 crores. In 1955 also we imported about 7 lakh tons at a cost of about Rs. 33 crores and in 1956 also we imported about 14,20,000 tons at a cost of Rs. 56 crores. This increase in our food import in 1956 was attributed to building an adequate food reserve for lean periods, but when questions were asked in those periods as to how the prices of foodgrains are on the increase, it was categorically denied here and the Government spokesmen said that there was no shortage of foodgrains in the country, but at that very moment the index of food prices showed an increase and in 1955-56 the index number of food price was 313.2 with 100 as base in 1939 and that has now increased to 406 in February 1957. We wanted that the statement made by the Minister yesterday should be distributed among Members but we have not received it so far.

The increase in our food imports, as I said before, was due to the fact that the Government wanted to build adequate food reserves, but though there is some food reserve, still the food prices are going high and today the index number of the price of cereal is about 525 as against 448 in the corresponding period last year and of pulses it is 440 as compared to 389 last year. These are things which are of the highest importance for the public and especially for the producers. When this unprecedented situation has been created by the failure of only one crop in Bihar and Eastern U.P. one would naturally ask how is our administration of food being carried on because at the time of the preparation of the Second Five Year Plan the planners had said that much attention was given to the agricultural problem during the First Five Year Plan but later on they revised their attitude and then said that there should be an additional production of foodgrains and their food target is fixed at 40 per cent. and the State Governments agreed only to 28 per cent. and during all this period, that is during the First Five Year Plan and up to now during the Second Five Year Plan, as the President has said about 2,22,000 villages have been covered by the N.E.S. Movement. It has also been stated that there has been an increase of 25 per cent. of food production in those areas. In India there are only about six lakh villages and if there has been an increase of 25 per cent in about two lakh villages there is no reason why there should be a shortage. When as Government itself admitted yesterday that the total damage done to food crops in Bihar is only to the extent of 60 per cent. which comes to about 2 lakh tons of wheat the position becomes ununderstandable to an average man like me. A shortage of just 2 lakh tons in Bihar has shaken the food administration of the country. I say shaken because food prices are going up, though the Government have said that they have not gone up as compared to 1952 and 1953.

The Planning Commission have said that the expenditure incurred on major irrigation projects is about Rs. 400 crores and on minor irrigation projects about Rs. 110 crores. This is the share of the Centre. The States on their part have spent many crores of rupees. All this expenditure has brought about 63 million acres of land under irrigation according to Official Report. There were about 2,500 tube-wells when the first Five Year Plan was put into execution. Now there are about 5,850 tube-wells. It has been stated by Government that an additional 63 million acres of land has come under irrigation. Everybody knows that when we provide irrigational facilities, production is virtually doubled. On an average an acre of land will give an additional produce of 10 maunds. Then it comes to about 630 million maunds. But everybody is familiar with the actual state of affairs prevailing in the country.

I was anxious to know what was the acreage of land brought under cultivation by a tube-well. The Food Minister had told me on the 9th of this month that the average acreage of land under irrigation per tube-well is about seven acres. One can easily irrigate seven acres by an ordinary well. Then what is the necessity of booring a tube-well if only seven acres of land is irrigated by a well in Bihar. An hour or so back during Question Hour we could not get any definite answer as to how much of land is irrigated by a tube-well in the Punjab. The hon. Minister said the capacity is about 374 acres; but the full capacity is not being utilised. In Bihar also the capacity is 450 acres. One tube-well can actually irrigate 150 acres of *kharif*, 200 acres of *rabi* and 100 acres of *garma* (crops like sugarcane, etc., during the summer season). But the full capacity is not utilised anywhere in India, as was admitted by the Food Minister during Question Hour; therefore, that also may cause shortage of food production.

The Minister of Irrigation and Power said that there is shortage of cement in the country, particularly in flood affected areas. I say that there is no scarcity of cement in flood affected areas, at least in those areas where projects are under execution. In any of these areas one can buy plenty of cement, provided he is ready to give black price. Anybody can come with me and I can purchase for him truck-loads of cement in areas where construction of tube-wells or big projects is in progress. This is the efficiency of our administration.

In our area, where the crop has failed, if there are about 800 tube-wells, one would like to ask why those tube-wells were not fully utilised. That is a situation which no man can tolerate in a free country; if a tube-well is irrigating only seven acres of land, and if that point has been given to the Government not today but years ago, then this is a very serious matter.

One can say why such a situation has arisen. One reason is that the water rate has been enhanced by 300 per cent. Another reason is that you do not charge only the water rate. There is corruption in the department, and inefficiency also—corruption, because no government employee takes the real dues unless and until some consideration is given to him. And apart from that, they never supply the water in time. The government rule is that there should be one mile of *pucca mori* for all the tube-well; and there is a standard set for the canal also. But these standards, specifications and rules are never observed anywhere in the tube-well and canal areas.

In regard to minor irrigation also, you spend about Rs. 110 crores on Central account on minor irrigation. But what is the position of minor irrigation in the country? We are having *ahars* pynes in our area. In my constituency all the *ahars* were washed out by floods and not repaired. With regard to canals also, we are having one large system of canals, and that is the Son canal which our Agriculture Minister has seen. The condition of that canal has become antiquatted. He has seen the spirit of the people also, how they feel about the canal administration there, to what difficulties the peasants were put, how they were brought about, and whether their problems have yet been solved or not. In such a situation I do not hesitate to say that it is a miracle that the peasants even under such difficulties are producing enough quantity of grain to keep the body and the soul of the country together. This they are doing because they have got accustomed to slavery and misrule.

As I said earlier, if only the failure of crop in Bihar to the tune of 2 lakh tons has shaken the food administration, I would ask the Government and the Planning Commission that they should change their attitude, especially in the matter of restoring efficiency in the Government, and they should

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see that the Community Development, Irrigation and Power, Food and Agriculture and the Planning Ministry work efficiently. I can give an instance here. I wrote a letter to the Planning Minister in 1954 and again in the early part of 1955, for which I received a reply a few days ago. It said: "Please refer to your letter dated nil addressed to Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, Union Minister for Planning, enclosing a copy of the letter No. 1135 dated February 21, 1955"—and this letter is dated April 3, 1957—and the latter part of it says: "The Joint Development Commissioner, Bihar has informed us that sanction for payment to Shri Basawan Singh of Rs. 1,122, being fifty per cent. of the total cost of the pump purchased, has since been issued." This is about community projects. People say that there has been an increase of 25 per cent in the production of food crops in the community project areas. I say that there has been a 25 per cent decrease in my area—and there is a community project in that area also. All the schools which were constructed by the community project were not constructed according to proper specifications, and the roofs of most of these schools have now collapsed due to wind and other inclemencies of weather. And the bridges also have collapsed, because all the cement went into the black market. On the basis of that experience I can therefore categorically repudiate the statement that cement is not available. It is not a correct statement; it is a statement produced by your officers and is not reliable.

I am thankful to the President for his call to the people. He has said: "Public opinion plays a large and well nigh conclusive part in the success of such endeavour. The determination and fervour of our people, their readiness to accept discipline, to respond to the call for efforts and their resolve not to be led into anti-social behaviour, such as by hoarding or wasteful spending, alone will help the country to pass successfully through the present crucial period of our Second Five Year Plan." I am grateful to the President for this remark, but I would also respectfully suggest that while making such an appeal, the President should also appeal to the Government and the government machinery and ask them to be efficient, pure and honest in their public dealings.

I may also say something about the point which Acharya Kripalani just referred to. I noticed that even some Ministers were led to their seats in the swearing-in ceremony by the government officials, but even senior Members of Parliament like Acharya Kripalani or Shri B. Das—and there were so many elder Members of Parliament—were not told where to sit or where to go. I do not like this practice, and I want that this practice should also be ended.

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Kasergor): I am glad to find that the President in his Address has said that there will be no abandonment or slowing down of the progress of the Second Five Year Plan. The President has also pointed out the difficulties. We also know that as far as the Plan period is concerned, there are interested parties who want to see that the period is extended. But the President has assured us that even though there are difficulties, the Government will overcome those difficulties and there will be no question either of the abandonment or slowing down of the progress of the Second Five Year Plan. I am glad about it and I hope that the Government will stick to it and see that this promise that there will be no abandonment or slowing down of the progress of the Plan is carried out.

12.59 hrs.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA *in the Chair.*]

I want to point out a very important thing in the President's Address. The President has said that the Government will try to see that there is increasing national self-sufficiency both in the field of industry as well as in that of agriculture. I want this

House to reckon with facts, and also see that we face the realities. That is what I said the other day when the statements were made by the Ministers, because the real situation in each State as brought forward by the Members as well as by the reports in the papers was different. We want to know from the Government whether they can say that there has been great increase in production and there is no scarcity of food, that there is no famine condition anywhere in India, either in U.P. or Bihar or in any other place.

13 hrs.

While speaking about production, I want to know from the hon. Minister one thing. In a statistical bulletin of the U.P. Government, they have said that as between 1951-52 and 1954-55, there has been a decrease in the total irrigated area. In 1951-52, it was 139 lakh acres and in 1954-55, it was 135 lakh acres. Has it improved all of a sudden in 1955-56? In 1953-54 and 1954-55 there was a gradual decrease. Certainly, the land under irrigation should be less. I want to know the actual position from the hon. Minister. Here is another figure. The total area under crops in 1951-52 was 82·3 per cent. In 1953-54, it was 80·6 per cent and in 1954-55, it was 80·5 per cent. This also shows that there has been a decrease. Naturally, the production should have come down. These figures are only up to 1955. I also want to know whether there has been an increase or decrease of acreage under irrigation after 1956. There are figures and I do not want to go into them because there is no time.

When we were discussing the Plan, we from this side asked the Government to take note that the most important thing is rapid industrialisation and that more money should be allotted for the machine-building industry. We were told that first things should come first and that the most important thing in the Plan is to see that we are self-sufficient in food. It is said that there were calamities. There is true. Is that the reason why we were not able to achieve self-sufficiency. There are other reasons. There are no minor irrigation works in many States. Even that is not the main reason. The main reason is that, the basic problem in food production has not been solved. In the A.I.C.C. Economic Review of 1st May, 1957, there is an article entitled Kaladi and India's land problem. It is specifically stated there that the single biggest bottle-neck in our planning and allied matters is that the land problem is not solved. So long as the land problem is not solved, this bottle-neck cannot be removed. It is also clearly stated there that the biggest resource that we have got is man-power and without land redistribution, this power cannot be enthused, roused and utilised for national reconstruction. We say there is increased production. If there is increased production, there must be increased consumption by the rural masses. It is also necessary that there must be increased income for the rural masses. These peasants and agricultural labourers come to about 70 per cent of the population. If they have to get an increased income, a patch of land must be given to them for cultivation. I have no time; otherwise, I would have gone into the whole question in detail. If this bottle-neck is to be removed, the most important thing is that there must be land reform. If the land reform is not there, we will not certainly be able to attain self-sufficiency. It has also been pointed out in the same article that actual performance has not been in accordance with these declarations about ceilings upon land holdings, and

> "the delay of almost six to seven years has meant that the land-owners, by various devices, have taken steps to so divide their property among their kith and kin, that it is seriously apprehended, if now serious steps are taken for the imposition of ceilings upon landholdings with a view to redistribute the surplus land, very little would be available."

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We discussed this question in the Second Plan also, and in the Land Reform Panel. I do not want to go into the details. We have been emphasising this point for the last three or four years. If the Government really wants to tackle this problem, some serious steps must be taken. First, stoppage of eviction, followed by immediate land reform. There should be legislation. The legislation should include a ceiling on landholding. Fallow lands and waste land should be given to the landless peasants. Arrangements should be made for credit facilities to the poor peasants so that they may produce more food. I may point out that the first thing that they have done after taking office is to issue Ordinances stopping all kinds of evictions. They have also enacted legislation. Within two or three months, they are having another legislation in land reform, as far as Kerala is concerned, I know how much these Ordinances stopping evictions have enthused the peasants.

As regards the food position in Kerala, I want to point out one thing. The food position there is precarious. The Food Minister has referred to certain remedies. Kerala is a very peculiar State. It is not only a deficit area today, but it will continue to be so for many years. More than 50 per cent of our food comes from outside the State or outside India. The availability of land is very low. Even if there are any schemes for growing more food, Kerala will not be able to reach self-sufficiency in food. It will continue to be a deficit area. There were some attempts to grow more food; but they have not been successful. Since the situation in other parts of the country is serious, the position of Kerala, which depends on other States for her food, has become very bad. The other day the Food Minister said that we can get rice from Tanjore and some other places in Andhra. The prices in Tanjore and Andhra areas have gone up. That shows that there is scarcity in those areas. The increase in price also shows that the merchants and traders in those areas are trying to make as much as they can. There is one special feature in Kerala. During the coming two months, there will be rain in Kerala. Already the unemployment problem is very acute there. Even those who go to field work and other workers cannot go out for work in the coming two months. The difficulty is going to be all the greater. I request the Government to see that the food position does not deteriorate in the next two months and famine conditions do not come in. Certainly, the Government has to rush food supplies to Kerala to prevent famine conditions setting in there.

There is also a feeling whether the Central Government will be willing to help the State Government of Kerala because there is a change. We know what the change is. It is necessary to see that, so ar as Kerala is concerned, whether it is the Communist Government or the Congress Government, the responsibility of the Central Government is fulfilled and this feeling is not there, that because of change of Government, the Central Government is not trying to send them supplies of food.

I have already written to the Minister regarding the supply of rice. It is a fact that the people in Kerala take only boiled rice. In the fair price shops, there is no boiled rice. What happens is, in the fair price shops, the price of rice is 8 annas and in the free market, it is 12 annas. If boiled rice is not supplied in the fair price shops, the price in the free market wil go up tremendously. I would request the Government to attend to this problem. The coming two months are very bad months and they may lead to famine conditions in Kerala. Special steps have to be taken.

In some places where there are fair price shops, there are no godowns.

For instance, in places like Cannanore and Kesergod, there are no godowns, and those who have to get rice have to go to other far-off places

The result is that they also cannot sell the rice at reasonable prices; they will have to sell the rice at higher prices, because the charges for transport and other things are also there.

I want Government to look into these things and see that the food situation which has already become worse in Kerala does not deteriorate further and no famine conditions come about there, as a result of food scarcity.

Then, I would like to refer to one other thing which has not been referred to in the President's Address. It has been said that there must be increase in production. But what are the incentives given to the workers, which will enthuse them to produce more? When we were discussing the Second Five Year Plan, we had pointed out that unless the attitude of Government in regard to the workers was defined, and unless something was done to improve the lot of the workers, we could not expect more production.

But, what is the position today? The station masters have given notice of a strike. The Air India International's workers also have given notice of a strike. Even at the time of the First Five Year Plan, the unions of the employees of the Postal and other departments also had passed resolutions that unless some wage increase was granted to them, they will have to take some definite steps. But no increase in wages was there in the First Five Year Plan. It was said that there was inflation, but there was no increase in wages. According to the reports, there was increase in production; there was also increase in profit, but as far as the wages were concerned, there was no increase commensurate with the price structure.

The article in the *AICC Economic Review* to which I have referred has clearly shown how the prices have gone up and how the cost of living index has also gone up. As far as food articles are concerned, the index in 1954 was 362·7 but in August, 1956, it was 397, in November 1956, 411·6, and in 1957, 400·2. As far as the consumer price index is concerned, the article proceeds to say:

> "It may be pointed out that compared to the average cost of living indices for 1952 (103), 1953 (106) and 1954 (101), the average for 1955 (96) as a whole was lower. But since March, 1956, the trend has been continuously upward and ruled, almost every month, much higher than the averages for the three previous years.".

If we bear this in mind, we can easily understand the justification for the demand of the workers. As many as 25 unions of workers have demanded that there must be a second pay commission appointed to go into the question of wages and salaries. The INTUC and also the other trade unions in the country have unanimously said that there must be a second pay commission and they have also said that a minimum increase of about 25 per cent in the wages should be assured to the workers, for it is on this increase in wages that the increase in production will depend.

But what do we find? Even the reports and recommendations that have already been made have not been implemented. For instance, the Central Pay Commission's recommendation is there to the effect that if there is an increase in the cost of living by 20 per cent, there must be an increase in the wages by Rs. 5. But there has been no increase in wages corresponding to the increase in the cost of living. Then, there was the Fair Wages Committee; that committee also had gone into the question of wages and made some recommendations. Those recommendations also have not been implemented. In the

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Constitution itself, under article 41 in the chapter on the Directive Principles of State Policy, it has been stated that Government will have to make every endeavour to see that the living standards of the workers are increased, and legislation should be passed to assure them a living wage. Then, there is the report of the Committee on Profit-sharing. That committee had said that there must be a sharing in the profits to the extent of 50 per cent. That recommendation also has not been implemented..

When even these recommendations have not been put into effect, if we ask the workers to produce more, how can there be any enthusiasm on their part, especially when they know that their cost of living is very high and their condition is bad?

While this is the position with regard to the wages, what do we find in regard to the rights of the workers? There is an attack on the rights of the workers. I have got here a report of an incident, and I shall get the letter also circulated; that letter was given to Shri V. V. Giri while he was travelling, in the Kundah station. One of the workers wrote something to Shri V. V. Giri, and Shri V. V. Giri had written a letter to the railway authorities in connection with that letter. After some time, it was found that the person who had written that letter to Shri V. V. Giri had been suspended on the ground that he had talked to Shri V. V. Giri. When that is the situation, what is the freedom that the workers have got? Shri V. V. Giri was an hon. Member of this House, belonging to the Congress Party. He had also been the Labour Minister here; besides, he had also been a railway union leader. If a worker is punished for having approached even a leader of that calibre, then what is the freedom that the workers have got? I would like to know whether this is correct. There are records with me here to show that the letter was sent. If a worker is suspended simply because a Member of Parliament is approached by him, and that Member of Parliament writes to Government, then what are the rights that the worker has got? Not only is there no increase in the wages, but even the freedom of the workers to approach leaders of trade union movement, especially a person like Shri V. V. Giri, is not there. That is very bad.

In conclusion, I want to say just a word about Goa. No reference has been made to this in the President's Address. The Prime Minister had stated before that he would consult the Members of the Opposition in regard to the Goa policy, and then he would do something about it. But nothing has been done so far. It has been said that negotiation, persuasion etc. are the things that have to be attempted. But what the people would like to know is, supposing negotiation fails, supposing persuasion fails, and the Portuguese imperialism does not care for these things and they refuse to quit Goa, then what is the next thing that Government are proposing to do. We have waited for a long time, and we have not been able to change the behaviour of the Portuguese imperialism by persuasion or negotiation. So, it is time that Government come forward with a plan for some positive action in regard to this matter. Unfortunately, no mention has been made of this problem in the President's Address. I hope this will not be forgotten.

There are many other points that I would have liked to deal with, but since there is no time now, I shall conclude.

Shri Frank Anthony (Nominated-Anglo-Indian): I propose to devote my observations entirely to the food situation. I have given notice of an amendment to the Motion of Thanks, which reads as follows:

> "That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—
>
> 'but regret that the Address does not deal adequately with

the reasons for the present unsatisfactory food situation or with any positively articulated food policy to prevent a recrudescence of such a situation.".

I feel that the situation with regard to food is not only unsatisfactory, but it is grave. I also feel that it is not a local or a State problem; it is a national problem, and because of that, I, for one, deprecate any attempt to make any political debating point in this House out of this serious national problem or to attempt to make political capital out of it. I feel that it is the duty of every Member of this House to attempt to make some kind of constructive approach, because on a correct solution of this food problem will depend not only this basic question of food, but on it will depend food prices generally, and on it will depend also the general level of the cost structure in the country. And unless we solve adequately this question of food, my own feeling is that it will undermine the whole position of the general cost structure in the country, and ultimately torpedo all our expectations with regard to the Second Five Year Plan.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture has stated that Government propose to appoint a high level committee. I shall not say with Shavian cynicism 'Better never than late'. I am one of those ordinary mortals, who believe in the ordinary maxim 'Better late than never'.

I can only hope that something Practical will emerge from this high-level Committee, because I believe that more than anything else we need a practical approach and a practical solution. But I feel that if this high-level Committee is weighted with brittle-minded civilian officials or with woolly-headed economists and theoreticians, then all that they will do will be to get into a welter of statistics and counter-statistics, into a welter of theory and counter-theory and then produce, or attempt to produce, a series of suggestions which will render the Minister more confused than he is at present.

I am not blaming the Government in respect of the quantum of food production. I am quite prepared to accept the statement of the hon. Food Minister that we have reached more or less a peak position with regard to rice as also to wheat. But I cannot, quite frankly, understand the Government's fetish with regard to figures and statistics. There is this tendency in the Government today to be overborne by theory. There is this terrible clerical complex in the Government of India which has paralysed the railways and which is paralysing the whole administration. People get lost in files; they get lost in red-tape; they get lost in figures.

What are we being offered today? To adopt a Biblical phraseology, people are not being offered stones instead of bread; they are being offered statistics instead of bread! I do not, for one moment, suggest that statistics are not necessary. Reliable statistics are absolutely vital to any correct or proper planning. But it is a moot point as to whether the statistics which Government chooses to furnish this House with are so reliable as to enable Government to evolve a satisfactory food policy.

Sir, I know that comparisons are odious. But I know how the late Rafi Saheb used to hold meetings everyday with his officials; I think there was no Minister in the Government of India who had less to do with officials, who had less to do with files and who less to do with government statistics. I remember a government official trying to put over some kind of a thesis to Rafi Saheb on the basis of statistics. Fortunately, it was not possible for the poor civilian to come out with asseverations. Rafi Saheb said: "Burn your statistics". I would say with all respect to the present Food Minister that he could well emulate the attitude of Rafi Saheb and say "Burn your statistics"., Let him not allow his high level committee to get inculpated either behind *khaskhas tatties* or enervated behind

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air-conditioned rooms; let him ask them to go out into the field and get their experience from the field.

This is a hard practical problem. What is the good of giving us statistics? What is the good of feeding the country on statistics? We have had I say with all respect, enough of paper solutions; we have even had newspaper solutions. According to one paper solution last year, we had solved the food problem and we were now getting to the stage where we would be able to export food. I am not blaming the Government. But the thesis I am trying to make is this: that we are living in an illusion created by statistics, about the reliability of which no two people can agree.

In an attempt to approach this problem in a realistic way, let us look at the stark facts. What are the stark facts? First of all, prices of rice and wheat have risen steeply. According to Press reports, and even according to statements made by some Congressmen, the price of rice in certain parts has gone up to Rs. 25 a maund and that of wheat in certain parts has risen to Rs. 24 a maund. Apart from this *ad hoc* rise, what is the overall so-called steady position? I was looking at the 'specialised' statistics of the Food Ministry the other day. According to the specialised statistics—incidentally, I do not know what the epithet 'specialised' connotes; perhaps the Food Ministry has specialists in statistics or the statistics are prepared for the special consumption of this House—foodgrain prices have gone up by 15 per cent by the end of the First Plan. Now, I am prepared to accept this computation given by the Food Ministry, but the *Hindustan Times*, which no one can accuse of being anti-Government, says 'no'. It says that these statistics are utterly unacceptable; the common experience of the common man would put the rise at the end of the First Plan at 30 per cent. But I am inclined to give the benefit of doubt to the Government. Let us accept the rise as 15 per cent.

But in passing, may I make this observation? I was also looking at the final forecast for rice production given by the Government. What is the Government's figure? 28·1 million tons. The Government second forecast, which was given just before the final forecast for rice production for 1956-57, put it at 23·9 million tons. It means just this, that the Government's statistical machinery, for what it is worth, is able to perpetrate this error of over 4 million tons between the second and the final forecast, an error of 16 per cent with regard to rice production.

Now, if I were inclined to be uncharitable, I would say that I would prefer the second forecast of 23·9 millin tons, and that the final forecast was deliberately puffed in order to give the illusion to the House that rice production had reached a peak level. But I am not saying this. What I am trying to indicate is this: that your statistics, according to your own showing, are not reliable. Otherwise, how can this tremendous error of 16 per cent occur between the second and the final forecast? This is precisely what people say.

Then there is the other stark fact. Not only, according to Government, have we reached peak production, but prices have reached a peak figure. My hon. friend, Archarya Kripalani, has diagnosed the malaise. I submit he has sought to over-simplify it. He says that the whole problem can be simplified in this way: it is merely a question of inflation. I do not agree. Certainly, there is this tremendous, sudden rise. You have this peak reached in respect of prices. I do say that there is relative scarcity; there is acute scarcity that places food beyond the reach of the purchasing power of the poorer people, and to that extent, you get famine. But that is not a permanent feature. My own estimate

is that this is a temporary phase, that prices will recede and come down.

The Food Minister himself in a statement that he made to the Press the other day—on the 6th May—conceded that the country is living from hand to mouth. That is the admission which I find it very difficult to square—the statement that he made on the 6th May—with the thesis propounded here that we have reached peak production and that we have reached self-sufficiency.

The Minister has suggested on amalgam of causes for the present unsatisfactory position. He has said that it is due to deficit financing. The villain of the place, according to Acharya Kripalani, is deficit financing-cum-development expenditure. I am not prepared to concede that thesis entirely. Then there is the contributory factor of natural calamities. It was almost suggested that hoarding at the present movement vis-a-vis this particular acute scarcity, was the villain of the place.

Now, I am quite prepared to accept this analysis. But I come to this radical position: what is the inescapable conclusion that we arrive at from all these analyses? It is this. I am no longer a student of economics who wallows in economic theories. When I was a student of economics I was taught this: there is this basic economic law which is an inexorable law that prices are determined ultimately by the operation of the law of supply and demand. What do we arrive at? That is precisely what I am trying to say; that this present rise, this present temporary scarcity is due to inadequate supply. Whatever may be the cause; we may agree or we may disagree with the cause; we may agree or disagree with the quantum of production in the country and we may agree or disagree whether we have achieved self-sufficiency. But, we cannot escape this stark fact that today there is acute relative scarcity. What is the cause of this acute relative scarcity? It is because you have an inadequate supply. I am not seeking to oversimplify the position and I feel that we have perpetrated this mistake, the Minister has done it, the Members on this side have done it. The whole time we are looking at the overall production. How much have you produced? Fifty-seven million tons or 58 million tons. How much do you hope to produce? That, I submit, is not the real determinant. Who are suffering? Not the agriculturists, not the producers; but the people who suffer are those who have to buy their food. How much of this food goes into what is technically known as the 'monetised sector'; that is the sector where food is bought? Only one-third; I think. That is accepted. One-third of 58 or 59 million tons; that is only about 19 million tons. You have to concentrate on that figure. Nineteen million tons go to the monetised sector. And, we have to determine whether these 19 million tons of food can feed the non-agricultural population of this country. I say, it cannot.

What I am trying to make is this. I know Government will say: We will plan; it is a long-term plan of achieving self-sufficiency. But, in the short term how are we to prevent this from happening; how to prevent it from recrudescing. It will recrudesce the next time we have a natural calamity, the next time we have drought, the next time we have hail or storm. We will have this recrudescence of relative scarcity. The poorer people will be unable to meet the peak prices. We will doubtless have near famine conditions. My answer to this is this. I know, when I say this, it will create resistance, psychological resistance. There is only one answer. I may be wrong. You have to get the amount. You may beg, borrow or steal. But, fortunately, we do not have to beg or steal. We can get it. I say this; the amount may be wrong, but I am trying to draw conclusions from facts. The Minister said that by December we will have 1 million tons of wheat and five lakhs tons of rice in reserve. It cannot be adequate. I am looking at the results. How can it be adequate? If it was adequate, you would never get this relative scarcity.

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I am not quarrelling as to where from you get it—whether from America or any other place. My communist friends may say that they do not like the complexion of American wheat. Let them get it from Russia. But, what I say is this. You will have to build up adequate reserves. Government's thesis is apparently that our import policy is adequate, and that we have sufficient stocks. If that is so, then, one of two things has happened. Either the State Governments have been incompetent or they have been inefficient. Either they have not given you the necessary warning when they should have. They should have known what conditions are likely to accrue and they did not give you time to send the necessary relief. Or transport bottlenecks operated and prevented the getting of the relief, as soon as you should have got relief. I am not going to talk about transport bottlenecks. But in my own humble view the position is going to get worse instead of better as you have not got an adequate provision for wagons.

It is not Government's case here that the State Governments have been either incompetent or inefficient. It is not Government's case that transport bottlenecks have intervened in the matter of sending a sufficient supply sufficiently early. What do we come down to? We come down to the basic and the ultimate cause; the Government has not got sufficient supplies There is no other reason. I do not blame the Government. All I say is adequate and you have adequate supplies. In the long term we may be able to achieve food sufficiency. But, what are we going to do relieve a situation like this, to prevent the recrudescence in the next 6 months or in the next year. My humble opinion is this. You can get your economists and theoreticians to go on but you will have to decide as to what the minimum stocks must be with the Government so that you can unload at any time in order to break any kind of factors which stimulate temporary famine conditions.

It has been said that hoarding is there. But, how do you get hoarding? I do not know to what extent the agriculturists hoards. But we all know who the middlemen are. I am not naming them; it gives offence. They are a parasitic, ravening class who will fatten on conditions like this. They know precisely when it pays to hoard and they know that the Government has not got the capacity to check this sudden spiral of increasing prices and they know that by hoarding they can get peak prices. They would never hoard if you had sufficient supplies whether it is 2 million tons or 5 million tons, and you unload it in the market at the proper time. They will never get the benefit of hoarding. That is my submission.

What are the facts as they emerged from the Minister's statement. I was reading a statement from Bihar. The statement said that the fair prices shops in Bihar were empty. Who is to blame. I hope the Bihar Government is not to blame. Obviously, if there are no transport bottlenecks, if the Bihar Government was vigilant, the blame was obviously that you did not have sufficient supplies to put into these fair-price shops. It is said that we must not unnecessarily create panic in the country. It is not a statement made here or there that creates panic. It is not a facts that create panic. What must have been the reaction on the minds of the average peasants, the non-agriculturists as soon as they found your fair-price shops empty? It must have acted as a tremendous impects to this inflationary spiral. And, as I said, the Government, obviously, did not have the wherewithal to fill the fair-price shops.

I cannot reconcile all that the Minister says. In one part he says they will have adequate reserves. Apparently, this is internal sufficiency. In the Press statement he says that the offtake in respect of grains except rice will be almost equal to the imports. I fail to understand this.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member's time is up.

Shri Frank Anthony: *Sir, I am* speaking on behalf of my group.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member has already taken about 18 to 19 minutes.

Shri Frank Anthony: Sir, I hope as spokesman of a group, I will get 30 minutes. I am the only member speaking on behalf of my group.

Mr. Chairman: If the hon. Member only knew how many hon. Members were anxious to speak he will surely think twice before he makes a request for further time.

Shri Frank Anthony: I thought I would get 30 minutes; anyhow I will finish soon.

Yesterday, in a statement, the Minister, I think, said that the requests of one or two State Governments could not be fully acceded to. The Kerala Government has asked for certain aid. The statement says that what will be given to the Kerala State Government will depend on the availability of stocks with the Centre. Obviously, the Central Government has not got adequate supplies to meet fully the demands of the States. The meeting of the whole demands of the States will depend upon the availability of supplies at the Centre. You come back to the basic complaint that you have not got adequate supplies. You will not be able to accede to the demands of the States or break the back of any kind of anti-social activity like hoarding. There is thus a clear concatenation of facts. The statement of the Minister will lead to the one conclusion, the inescapable conclusion. Let us cut through the statistics; let us cut through the theories and counter theories with regard to production.

We come to the basic fact that the Central Gvernment has not got sufficient supplies. How do you answer that problem? Internally, you cannot immediately produce enough; you will have to import. I do not know what the quantum of imports is likely to be but it is suggested by knowledgable people that you must have at least two or three million tons on hand; you must be able to release two million tons in the market immediately there is a scarcity condition to prevent hoarding. I know it is repugnant to the psychological susceptibilities of of my hon. friends. My hon. friend, the Chairman, does not like any one to suggest that we are not self-sufficient in food. But, we have to face the facts.

The Finance Minister will come with an adequate objection: where will we get the money to pay for these imports? People are prepared to help *this country and to extend credit.* We need not pay immediately. I do not see how these imports will interfere with our resources. We get money immediately we sell the stocks. We will add to our resources.

I only want to say this that the present import policy will not prevent a recrudescence of a situation like this. Government will be criticised ultimately for a policy of too little and too late. Unles we have adequate stocks to meet a situation of relative scarcity like this, it enters into the general cost structure of the country. The index for food grains controls the food index to the extent of two-thirds. The food index, in turn, is a dominant factor in the general cost index; it enters in that to the extent of one third. Unles we control food and give our people food, how are going to control the general cost index in this country? If we do not control it what happens? People starve. It gives a tremendous impetus to the food index which in turn gives further impetus to the general cost index. My communist friends will come along making capital out of it and you cannot resist it. Already there is a demand for a second Pay Commission. If the prices of foodgrains are high, then the food index is high. Consequently, they want increased emoluments. How are you going to resist it? You cannot do it. You have got this tremendous vicious circle and it

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results in the demand for a second Pay Commission, higher wages, etc. Higher wages lead again to higher prices and once we let this vicious circle of wages chasing prices and then prices chasing wages and you and I can say good-bye to the Second Plan. That is why I say that this is a grave national emergency which has not only to do with food but which has to do something with the whole general cost structure which, in turn, is immediately concerned with our capacity to implement the Second Plan.

श्री ब० प्र० सिंह (मुंगेर) : सभापति महोदय, राष्ट्रपति ने अपने भाषण में इस बात का जिक्र किया है कि खाद्य के विषय में देश को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने के लिए अभी बहुत कुछ करना है । कल हमारे खाद्य मंत्री ने एक वक्तव्य दिया और बताया कि हमारे देश में उत्पादन की कमी नहीं है, उत्पादन बढ़ रहा है, लेकिन केवल बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश के पूर्वी क्षेत्र में विशेष आपत्ति के कारण यह कमी हुई है । यह आवश्यक है कि सरकार इस ओर विशेष ध्यान दे और वास्तविक स्थिति को मालूम करे । यह देखने का प्रयत्न करना चाहिए कि हम को जो सूचनायें और आंकड़े दिए जा रहे हैं, उन में कहां तक सच्चाई है । हमें याद है कि स्वर्गीय किदवई साहब ने कहा था कि गवर्नमेंट के आंकड़े ग़लत हैं और उन का सुधार कर उन्होंने इस देश में खाद्यानों से कंट्रोल हटाने का प्रयत्न किया था । इस अवस्था में मैं समझता हूं कि सरकार की ओर से मंत्री महोदय ने जो वक्तव्य दिया है, वह पूरे का पूरा विश्वास के लायक नहीं है । गवर्नमेंट को यह देखना चाहिए कि इस में कहां पर छिद्र है और क्या कारण है कि हमारे देश में अन्न का अभाव न होते हुए भी अन्न-संकट की आशंका हो रही है ।

कहा जाता है कि प्रथम पंच-वर्षीय योजना के दौरान उत्पादन में १८ प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई । साथ ही साथ हम यह भी उम्मीद करते हैं कि दूसरी पंच-वर्षीय योजना में ४० प्रतिशत की वृद्धि होगी । राज्य सरकारों ने केन्द्रीय सरकार को २५ प्रतिशत वृद्धि करने का विश्वास दिलाया है । १९५५ में प्लैनिंग कमीशन ने राज्य सरकारों को लिखा है कि वे अपने अपने राज्य में उत्पादन में दुगनी वृद्धि करें । इन सब प्रयत्नों के बावजूद आज देश में जो परिस्थिति है, वह बड़ी भयानक और विचारणीय है । हम समझते हैं कि जो लोग इस कार्य में लगे हुए हैं, वे पूरी दिलचस्पी से काम नहीं कर रहे हैं । हमारे देश के सामने सब से बड़ी समस्या खाद्य की है और मैं समझता हूं कि हमारी सरकारें चलाने वाले लोग, हमारे कार्यकर्ता और सरकारी कर्मचारी यदि पूरी दिलचस्पी और सहयोग से काम करें, तो कोई कारण नहीं कि हम इस समस्या का हल न निकाल सकें । जैसा कि मैं ने अभी कहा है, मालूम होता है कि हमारे आंकड़े ग़लत हैं और इस लिए इस तरफ़ हमारा ध्यान जाना चाहिए । हमें देखना चाहिए कि कहीं हमारे उत्पादन में कमी तो नहीं हो रही है और अगर हो रही है, तो हमें उस के कारणों के विषय में गहरा चिन्तन करना चाहिए ।

योजना आयोग ने प्लैन में एग्रीकल्चर को जो स्थान दिया है और जो उस की योजना बनाई है, उस को देखने से मालूम होता है कि आयोग के सदस्य देश की परिस्थिति को वास्तविक रूप से समझने में असमर्थ रहे हैं । उन्होंने निश्चय किया है कि फ़ैमिली होल्डिंग पांच एकड़ की होनी चाहिए और सीलिंग "थ्री टाइम्ज़ आफ़ दि फ़ैमिली होल्डिंग" होनी चाहिए । मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि इस देश में एक एकड़ में औसतन केवल चालीस रुपए नैट सेविंग है । इस के मुकाबले में सेंट्रल पे कमीशन ने सिफ़ारिश की है कि सरकारी कर्मचारियों का मैक्सिमम वेतन तीन हज़ार रुपया मासिक हो । इसी प्रकार शहर के लोगों की वार्षिक आमदनी ३०,००० रुपए और देहात के लोगों की खेती से ३,६००

रुपए है। आज सब ओर से आर्थिक समता और समाजवाद और सोशलिस्टिक पैटर्न की बात कही जाती है। लेकिन यह आर्थिक विषमता देख कर किसानों में बड़ी शंका पैदा होती है और उन में कोई उत्साह नहीं रह जाता है। परिणाम यह होता है कि वे लोग जमीन का पूरा पूरा उपयोग नहीं कर पाते हैं और पैदावार में जो वृद्धि हो सकती है, वह नहीं होती है। अगर किसानों को यह विश्वास हो जाय कि पैदावार के बढ़ने से उन को भी लाभ पहुंचेगा, और आगे कोई खतरा नहीं है तो वे पूरी दिलचस्पी और उत्साह के साथ काम करेंगे आज प्लैनिंग कमीशन में किताब पढ़ने वाले लोग ज्यादा हैं और वस्तुस्थिति का ध्यान रखने वाले कम हैं। उन को देखना चाहिए कि दूसरे देशों में जमीन और उत्पादन की समस्या को किस प्रकार हल किया गया है और किस प्रकार पैदावार को बढ़ाया गया है। इस सम्बन्ध में एक स्टैंडर्ड आफ़ कल्टीवेशन फ़िक्स कर दिया जाय और अगर कोई उतना पैदा न कर सके, तो मुआवजा दे कर उस जमीन की कानफ़िस्केट कर लिया जाय। अगर यह तय कर दिया जाय, तो किसान ज्यादा से ज्यादा पैदा करने की कोशिश करेंगे। लेकिन ऐसी कोई योजना देखने में नहीं आती है। गत वर्ष हम ने योजना मंत्री से निवेदन किया था कि एक स्टैंडर्ड आफ़ लिविंग फ़िक्स करना चाहिए और जब तक ऐसा न किया जायेगा तब तक न तो देश में समानता का भाव आ सकता है और न बेकारी की समस्या ही हल हो सकती है। मंत्री महोदय ने विश्वास दिलाया था कि यह बात उन के विचाराधीन है और वह ऐसा कुछ करने जा रहे हैं, लेकिन हम देखते हैं कि आज तक इस विषय में कोई प्रगति नहीं हुई है। इन बातों को दृष्टि में रख कर हमारा कहना यह है कि इस देश में ८० प्रतिशत किसान हैं और किसानों को आप ऊपर उठाना चाहते हैं, लेकिन आप का एक भी कार्य ऐसा नहीं है, जिस से कि किसानों में आप के प्रति विश्वास पैदा हो। आप जब आर्थिक समता की बात करते हैं, तो आप केवल किसानों में ही समता की बात सोचते हैं। दूसरे वर्गों की तरफ़, जिन के पास बड़ी बड़ी धन-राशि है आप का जरा भी ख्याल नहीं जाता है। प्रति, व्यक्ति आय—पर कैपिटा इनकम—२८१ रुपए है, लेकिन पूर्वी भारत में एक किसान की ज्यादा से ज्यादा आय ११० रुपए है। आप आर्थिक समता और समाजवाद की बात करते है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या आप के पास किसानों की आय बढ़ाने की कोई योजना है। आज किसानों की आर्थिक स्थिति कैसी है इस ओर आप विचार नहीं करते है और न आपको इसका अनुमान है। आज आपने जो टैक्सों का लाद बना रखे है वे किसानों को तबाह करते जा रहे हैं। आज आप किसानों की स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए मनीलैंडर्स एक्ट बनाते है लेकिन आप उसको व्यवहार में लाने के उपाय नहीं सोचते। इसके बारे में भी आप के पास कोई योजना नहीं है। आज किसान के पास इतना पैसा नहीं है कि वह अपने खेतों के लिए बढ़िया खाद खरीद सके और पैदावार को बढ़ा सके। आज किसानों के पास इतना पैसा नहीं है कि वह बढ़िया बैल खरीद सके और उनकी सहायता से अच्छी तरह से खेती कर सके। आज किसानों को उनकी जमीन के ऊपर कोई कर्ज देने वाला नहीं है। आज देश के अन्दर लैंड मार्टगेज बैंक्स नहीं हैं जहां से किसान अपनी जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए कर्ज ले सके। यदि यह सुविधायें उसको प्रदान की जायें तो वह निश्चय ही उत्पादन में वृद्धि कर सकता है। मैं चाहता हूं कि आप इस तरह की कोई योजनायें बनायें। आज किसी भी राज्य सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर नहीं है। राज्यों में जो हमारे मंत्रिगण हैं वे तो इन सब चीजों को करने के लिए व्यग्र हैं लेकिन जो बड़े बड़े अफसर हैं और जो लाल फीताशाही वहां चलती है वे उनको कोई काम नहीं करने देते हैं। वे लाल फीताशाही में बंधे रहते हैं। इस तरह से कोई काम आगे नहीं बढ़ सका है। और न आगे बढ़ेगा, ऐसा मेरा अनुमान है। आज आपको सब से पहली बात जो करनी

[श्री व० प्र० सिंह]

चाहिये वह यह है कि किसानों के अन्दर उत्साह का संचार आप करें। साथ ही साथ उसका जो जीवन स्तर है उसको ऊंचा उठाने का भी प्रयत्न आपको करना चाहिए। आज आपने लोगों के जीवनमान का कोई खुलासा नहीं बताया है, इसके बारे में आपने कोई निश्चय नहीं किया है और आप यह कहे जा रहे हैं कि आप किसानों का स्टेंडर्ड आफ लिविंग ऊपर उठाना चाहते हैं, देशवासियों का स्टेंडर्ड आफ लिविंग बढ़ाना चाहते हैं। इसको ऊंचा उठाने के लिए आप के पास कोई योजना नहीं है, कोई खुलासा नहीं है जो हमारे दिल के अन्दर शंका उत्पन्न होती है कि आप ऐसा कर सकेंगे। आप इस चीज का आज अंदाजा नहीं कर सकते हैं कि सर्वसाधारण के जीवनमान में तथा बड़े बड़े सरकारी कर्मचारियों के जीवन मान में, पूंजीपतियों के जीवनमान में तथा राज चलाने वाले जो मिनिस्टर लोग हैं उनके जीवनमान में कितना अन्तर आ गया है। किसी भी समाजवादी देशों में जीवनमान में अन्तर १ : ६ से ज्यादा नहीं है लेकिन हमारे देश में यह १ : १०० का है। मैं चाहूंगा कि सरकार सब से पहले इस जीवनमान को स्थिर करे और उसको हासिल करने का यत्न करे। किस अनुपात को अपनाया जाए, इसका निर्णय पहले हो जाना चाहिए। यदि आप इसको फिक्स कर देंगे और तब किसानों की हालत को देखेंगे तो आपको पता चलेगा कि उनके लिए बहुत कुछ करने को अभी बाकी पड़ा है। ऐसा यदि आपने किया तो मैं समझता हूं कि किसानों के अन्दर नव उत्साह का संचार होगा।

आज आप माइनर इरिगेशन के लिए कितना ही रुपया खर्च करने जा रहे हैं। लेकिन मैं आपको बतलाना चाहता हूं कि इस सब पैसे का सदुपयोग नहीं हो रहा है। आज माइनर इरिगेशन के सम्बन्ध में आपने बांध इत्यादि बनाने की योजनायें बनाई हैं। यह सब तो बरसात के पानी पर निर्भर करता है। आपने कुएं खोदने की योजना बनाई है। उनके सम्बन्ध में मुझे यह कहना है कि यदि ४ इंच डायामीटर के स्टेंडर्ड को अपना कर यदि आप बोरिंग करें तो ही ज्यादा से ज्यादा फायदा हो सकता है। लेकिन आज आपके कुएं वैसे ही पड़े हुए हैं और उनका कुछ भी उपयोग नहीं हो रहा है। एन० ई० एस० ब्लाक्स को तथा कम्पुनिटी डिवेलेपमेंट ब्लाक्स को मैंने देखा है। मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूं कि एक एन० ई० एस० ब्लाक के लिए जितना पैसा निर्धारित किया जाता है तथा उसमें से कितना पैसा डिवेलेपमेंट में खर्च किया जाता है। जहां से मैं आया हूं वहां के अधिकारियों से मैंने पूछा कि एन० ई० एस० ब्लाक का बजट कितने का है। उसने उत्तर दिया कि चार लाख का है। मैंने फिर पूछा कि विकास कार्यों पर कितना खर्च किया जाएगा, उसने उत्तर दिया कि दो लाख। बाकी का जो दो लाख है मकानात पर, एस्टेबिलिशमेंट पर तथा इसी तरह के दूसरे कामों पर खर्च किया जाएगा। तो आपको इन सब चीजों की तरफ गहराई से विचार करना होगा। बहुत ज्यादा रुपया खर्च कर देने से तथा सरकारी कर्मचारियों की संख्या बढ़ा देने से उत्पादन नहीं बढ़ सकता है। आपको वही कार्य करना चाहिए जिस से कि किसान को लाभ हो, साधारण जनता को लाभ हो। आप के अपने ही विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि जितना पैदा होता है, यदि प्रयत्न किया जाए तो उस से पांच गुना पैदावार बढ़ सकती है। जब इतनी शक्ति हमारे पास है तो क्या कारण है कि उस शक्ति का हम सदुपयोग नहीं कर पा रहे हैं और बाह्य आडम्बर तथा लाल फीताशाही के फेर में फंसे हुए हैं। आपको ऐसे ही कार्य करने चाहियें जिनसे वास्तविक रूप में खाद्य समस्या हल हो सके। अभी तक हमें खाद्य समस्या का समाधान नहीं कर सके हैं। आज हम सोशलिस्टिक पैटर्न आफ सोसाइटी की बात करते हैं, बेकारी को दूर करने की बात करते हैं परन्तु आज तक हमारी सरकार हमारा जीवनमान भी स्थिर नहीं कर सकी है।

हमारे स्टैंडर्ड आफ लिविंग को किस अनुपात में फिक्स किया जाए, इसका निर्णय नहीं कर सकी है। आप इसे फिक्स कर दीजिये। इसको फिक्स न करने में, मैं समझता हूं सरकारी कर्मचारियों का बहुत बड़ा हाथ है। इसके फिक्स हो जाने से आज जो तीन तीन और चार चार हजार रुपया बतौर वेतन के दिया जा रहा है वह बन्द हो जायेगा। आज हमारे नेताओं के वेतन और भत्ते भी बहुत बढ़े चढ़े हुए हैं और वे भी कम हो जायेंगे। बिहार में एक व्यक्ति की औसत आय १० रुपया महीना है और दस रुपया भी नहीं है बल्कि ६८ रुपये ९ आने सालाना है। तो वास्तव में यदि आप खाद्य समस्या को हल करना चाहते हैं, लोगों की आर्थिक स्थिति को अच्छा करना चाहते हैं तो आपको इस सारे मसले पर गहराई से गौर करना होगा। यदि आप गहराई से विचार करेंगे तो आपको पता चलेगा कि प्लानिंग कमिशन में जितने भी लोग हैं उनमें से शायद एक भी ऐसा नहीं है जिसको कि किसानों का कोई भी तर्जुबा हो। जहां आप ३,६०० रुपया वार्षिक आय की बात किसानों के लिए सोचते हैं वहां आप को इस पर भी विचार करना चाहिए कि सैंट्रल पे कमिशन के अनुसार जो तीन तीन और चार चार हजार रुपया मासिक वेतन पाते हैं उनका क्या किया जाए। किसानों को सूखा और बाढ़ इत्यादि से जो नुकसान हो जाता है, उसका आपको ध्यान ही नहीं है। शहरों में रहने वाले लोगों की आमदनी के बारे में आप ३०,००० तक की छूट देते हैं जबकि किसानों को ३,६०० तक की छूट देते हैं। ऐसी हालत में आप कैसे यह उम्मीद कर सकते हैं कि वे लोग उत्पादन बढ़ावें। किसानों को शंका है कि आज उनकी बात बड़े लोगों तक नहीं पहुंचती है। हमारे शासकों के पास पूंजिपतियों या दूसरे बड़े लोगों की आवाज पर ज्यादा ध्यान दिया जाता है लेकिन किसानों की ओर बहुत कम ध्यान दिया जाता है। इसलिए मैं कहता हूं कि आपका ध्यान उनकी अवस्था को सुधारने की ओर भी जाए।

दूसरी बात जो मैं कहना चाहता हूं वह शिक्षा के सम्बन्ध में है। पूज्य बापू ने बुनियादी तालीम पर जोर दिया था। लेकिन आप आज तक शिक्षा के सम्बन्ध में एक रूपता स्थापित नहीं कर पाए हैं। आज आप यूनिवर्सिटियों पर यूनिवर्सिटियां खोलते जा रहे हैं, अरबन यूनिवर्सिटियां खोलते जा रहे हैं। मैं चाहता हूं कि एकरूपता लाने के लिए आपको इन यूनिवर्सिटियों को रूरलाइज करना चाहिए, तब आपका काम सुचारू रूप से चल सकेगा। आपको संविधान के अनुसार सात वर्ष के अन्दर स्कूलों में जाने वाले ६ से १४ वर्ष तक के लड़कों के लिए शिक्षा की समुचित व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए थी। लेकिन दूसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना के अन्त में आप केवल ६ से ११ वर्ष तक की आयु वाले बालकों के लिए ६० प्रतिशत ही प्रबन्ध करने जा रहे हैं और ११ से १४ वर्ष तक के बच्चों के लिए तो आपने केवल १७ प्रतिशत की बात कही है। आप बड़े बड़े विश्वविद्यालय खोलते जा रहे हैं लेकिन जो न्यूनतम शिक्षा किसानों को दी जानी है उसकी ओर आपका कोई ध्यान ही नहीं है। आज जो देश के लिए खाद्य-पदार्थ पैदा करता है उसकी हालत सुधारने के लिए आपके पास कोई भी प्रोग्राम नहीं है और आप उसके अन्दर आकर्षण पैदा नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। उसके अन्दर उत्साह का संचार नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। आज आप लोग कास्ट हाउसिंग की स्कीम बनाते हैं लेकिन किस के लिए। आज इसे इंडस्ट्रियल लेबर के लिए बनाते हैं, अपने कर्मचारियों के लिए बनाते हैं। क्या आप बता सकते हैं कि आपने किसानों के लिए भी कहीं पर कोई हाउसिंग की योजना बनाई है या इस नाम की कोई दूसरी योजना बनाई है। आज आपके सामने खाद्य की गम्भीर समस्या उत्पन्न हो चुकी है और आप इसका रोना रोते रहते हैं लेकिन इसको हल करने के लिए गम्भीर सोच विचार के बाद योजना नहीं बनाते हैं, किसानों की आर्थिक दशा सुधारने का प्रयत्न नहीं करते हैं, उसमें उत्साह का संचार करने की कोशिश नहीं

[श्री व० प्र० सिंह]

करते हैं । मैं समझता हूं कि इस समस्या को बहुत थोड़े प्रयत्न के साथ हल किया जा सकता है । आज आप फारेन एक्सचेंज का भी रोना रोते हैं । दूसरे देशों से भी आप गल्ला मंगा रहे हैं । आप यह भी सोचते हैं कि किस तरह से इंडस्ट्रीज को बढ़ावा दिया जा सकता है । मैं चाहता हूं कि आप निश्चय कर लें कि हम गल्ला इम्पोर्ट नहीं करेंगे और अपनी जरूरतों के मुताबिक अपने देश में ही पैदा करेंगे । यदि हम पैदा नहीं कर सकते हैं तो हमें अपने जीवन को ऐसा व्यावहारिक जीवन बनाना चाहिए कि जितना गल्ला पैदा होता है उस गल्ले से ही आज हम अपना काम चला लें ।

आज जो बहुत बड़ा हिस्सा किसानों का है उसके बारे में आपको सोचना होगा । आज जो टैक्सेंसी लाज आपने बनायें हैं, उन पर आपको पुनः विचार करना होगा । उनको शिक्षा देने का प्रयत्न करना होगा । जब तक जमींदारी प्रथा इस देश में थी तब तक तो पार्ट होल्डिंग की नीलामी करने की ही व्यवस्था थी । लेकिन आज जब आपने इस प्रथा को समाप्त कर दिया है तो आप सर्टिफिकेट जारी करते हैं और उसके बदले में उसकी चल सम्पत्ति को कुर्क करते हैं । उसका अनाज निकाल लेते हैं । तो मैं कहता हूं कि फैजपुर तथा हरीपुर के किसानों के साथ कांग्रेस ने जो वादा किया था उसकी पूर्ति नहीं की गई है । जितने भी वादे आपने किसानों से किए थे उनको आज आप भूल गए हैं । आपने जो प्रतिज्ञायें किसानों के साथ की हैं उनकी पूर्ति कीजिए और देश के अन्दर ऐसा वातावरण पैदा कीजिए कि किसानों में आपके प्रति विश्वास की भावना पैदा हो और आप एक स्टैन्डर्ड आफ कलटिवेशन फिक्स कर के देश का धन धान्य बढ़ायें । हमारे पूज्य नेहरू जी ने बहुत बार कहा है कि हम कोई काम ऐसा नहीं करना चाहते जिससे देश के उत्पादन में कमी हो और हम तो अपने देश का खाद्य उत्पादन बढ़ाना चाहते हैं लेकिन यह दुर्भाग्य का विषय है कि आज उसकी ओर सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित नहीं हुआ है । मैं आपके जरिए सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि खाद्य समस्या जो भारत सरकार हल करना चाहती है वह किसानों की उन सारी आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति करके और किसानों में अपने प्रति विश्वास पैदा करके ही यह समस्या हल हो सकती है अन्यथा यह हल होने वाली नहीं है ।

14 hrs.

Mr. Chairman: The following are the amendments which have been indicated by the Members to be moved, subject to their being otherwise admissible;

Amendments Nos. 15, 17, 18, 19, 38, 67, 76 and 77.

Shri Bamra (Angul): I beg to move:

'That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that the Government have signally failed to solve the food situation in the country."'

Shri P. K. Deo (Kalahandi): I beg to move:

(i) 'That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret to find that the Community Development and National Extension Service programme have not made adequate progress to solve various needs of the villages."'

(ii) 'That at the end of the motion the following be added, namely: —

"but regret to find that no effective step is being taken to stop the colossal wastage in various major projects taken up in this country.'

Shri Mohamed Imam (Chitaldrug). I beg to move:

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that the Address gives no assurance of administrative competence or of measures necessary to meet the approaching economic and food crisis and the evil effects of inflation, so as to give relief to the people from their ever increasing hardships and national difficulties and that the Government's proposals for the future are either inadequate or injurious."'

Shri Jadhav (Malgaon): I beg to move:

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that reorganisation of the States has been completed by forming (i) Samyukta Maharashtra including Bombay City and (ii) Mahagujarath."'

Shri P. K. Deo: I beg to move:

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that the Address fails to take note of the ardent desire of the people of Seraikella and Kharswan to re-integrate those areas with Orissa State as expressed in the General Elections"'

Shri Narayanankutty Menon (Mukandapuram): I beg to move:

(i) "That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that no mention has been made in the Address regarding any measures for meeting the unemployment situation in the country with particular reference to the State of Kerala where the unemployment situation is extremely acute."'

(ii) "That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that no motion has been made in the Address regarding the necessity of following a policy of increase in the overall wages for the workers both in the public and private sector."'

Mr. Chairman: All these amendments are now before the House.

Shri A. S. Sarhadi (Ludhiana): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as we look at the President's Address, as Members of the House, we are compelled to have a feeling of thanks. There is no gain—saying the fact, that the coming few years would be very vital in the history of India, internally as well as externally. Internally, we are embarking on a Five Year Plan. The strength solidarity and the economic stability of the country depend on the success of the Five Year Plans. No doubt, the Five Year Plan has been initiated by the Congress Party. But it is a national plan and failure in it is bound to have repercussions on the future of the country.

One is really surprised to find one hon. Member, the leader of a Group, who commands respect throughout the country ridiculing why the Congress should take credit for the Plan. Of course, I am new to the Congress Party. Yet from all democratic principles, when a party has initiated a certain plan, it can certainly take credit for it and there should have been no surprise when the Congress Party in the elections took credit for the first Five Year Plan and the second Five Year Plan.

As I was just now saying, Sir, the future strength of the country depends on the success of the five year plans. But it is gratifying to note that from no quarter in this House has there be any criticism of this Plan as such. There have been criticisms in the implementation of the Plan, but as a Plan, it has been accepted by all. The main criticism in this House has been on the rising trend of food prices. Certainly, there has been a rise. The prices are higher from what they were in 1956. They are higher than what they were in 1955. They are certainly higher from what they were in 1954. But they are not very much

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emergency and we shall be prepared higher than what they were in 1953. It certainly concerns the urban population. But there is another side of the picture. You have got to see to the interests of the producers and the growers also.

The Planning Commission suggested that any reduction in the prices of foodgrains must be automatically followed by the increased production and they suggested that 20 per cent reduction in the prices of foodgrains must simultaneously follow an increase of 40 per cent. in production. We have got to see the recent rise from that aspect. This should not create any panic. Certainly there has been a rise, and we should look into it.

The Government has appointed, or, is appointing a High-powered committee for this purpose. But, as I have just now submitted. we have got to look to the interests of the agriculturists and the producers also. Therefore, I agreed with my hon. friend Shri Frank Anthony that the high-powered committee should not concentrate its energies on the big places and towns but should go to the fields and consult the man behind the plough and see what the situation is.

In the first Five Year Plan, certainly much attention was paid towards agricultural economy of the country. But I regret to say that so far as the second Five Year Plan is concerned, not much attention has been paid towards agricultural economy. This was admitted by the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture while giving his address at the inaugural session of the Agricultural Ministers' Conference in 1956. He conceded this fact at that time and said:

> "Agricultural income all over the world lags behind the urban and industrial incomes. In India, as against the average per capita income of about 297 of the factory workers in 1950, the income of the agricultural labourer in 1950-51 worked out to an average of about Rs. 200 only. The second Plan provides for an increase in national production of 25 per cent, whereas the increase in the agricultural sector is only 18 per cent. The disparity in the incomes of industrial sector and of the agricultural sector at the end of the second Five Year Plan will, therefore, if anything, be greater than at present. Seven out of every ten persons living in our country derive their livelihood from agriculture and at the end of the second Five Year Plan, the vast majority of the people living on agriculture will not have bettered their lot to the same extent as those dependent on industry and trade. This aspect of our planning cannot be overlooked lightly, and should legitimately be a cause for concern."

I was submitting for the consideration of the House that in the second Five Year Plan, the producer and the grower have not been paid that much attention which they should have received. From that aspect, I submit that this point should be looked into. Speaking as a Member from Punjab, I submit that 65 per cent of the population of Punjab is entirely dependent on agriculture. 81 per cent of the population is in the villages, but about 65 per cent, as I said, are dependent on agriculture. Therefore, their future should be looked into. I would, therefore, urge that, under the circumstances, heavy industries and other industries also should be distributed in a manner that no State should be left without industrialisation. In this respect, Punjab has got a grouse which, I am sure, will be attended to.

Coming to the next point in the Address, I must say that the unity of a country, or rather, the strength and solidarity of a country depends on

the unity of its people. I feel that that unity can only be attained if there is an emotional integration amongst the different sections residing therein. From that aspect, the Government deserves congratulations for having settled the Punjab problem. The hon. Member from Bombay City central said yesterday that there are mumurings about the language problem in Punjab. I do not know from where he got that information. Possibly, his information is based on news in the Press of the Punjab. But I must tell him and through you, the House, that this problem is settled once for all. There has been a compromise and we take it as settled. It pained me to find that one hon. Member has tabled an amendment that it should be reopened and looked into again. I feel it will be disastrous; it will be raising up old controversies. The matter is closed. Punjab is a border province and I believe that if that attention has been given to it previously before the partition, and man's mind is ingenious, probably we would have been able to settle it and there would have been no partition at all. But now, I respectfully submit that any reopening of it would have serious repercussions. Therefore, I beg of those who are from outside not to raise old controversies which have been settled.

As I have submitted previously, Punjab also expects some share in the industrialisation. I am glad that one of the Members, the Leader of the Communist Group, said that the private sector is also essential. So far so good, but I would submit that we are in an age of democracy and an age of socialism; we have got to follow and adopt a socialist pattern in our economy. The hon. Minister said that the rise in the prices of foodgrains is partly due to the hoarding by the landlords and speculators. I say that this is entirely due to the hoarding by the speculators and the businessmen.

An Hon. Member: Where are the landlords?

Shri A. S. Sarhadi: There are no landlords, I can speak for Punjab; out of the 65 per cent population dependent on agriculture, 90 per cent do not own more than 7 or 8 acres. So, there are no landlords. Therefore, if at all any person is hoarding, it is the speculator and the businessman. The best thing would be to eliminate the middlemen in between the agriculturists and the consumers. There should be co-operative societies and these co-operative societies should consist of the growers who should run the market. That would be in the interests of the economy of the country. I would submit further that the private sector should be limited to the minimum. We are out of the age of capitalism; we are in the age of socialism. Therefore, our policy should be such that the private sector's role is not increased.

It was really a treat to hear a speech yesterday wherein one of the hon. speakers, referring to our foreign policy, pleaded very strongly that our country should have military alliances with Russia and China. As I have said, the next five years are very vital to the country internally as well as externally. Both are linked together. We can have success of the Five Year Plan only if there is peace in the world. I will only submit that India's foreign policy of condemnation of military alliances is certainly very good, for, military alliances constitute the basis of war. The role that India has been playing in international politics has been noble indeed. Our policy has not been a policy of neutrality or isolation or in action. It has been a policy of action in the sense India has always worked for peace. Some people say that India's Foreign policy has founded in the land of pharoahs. That is wrong. India still persists in the role of peace mission, which it has adopted so long. This has helped to avoid wars in Indo-China and Korea and in future also it will avoid wars.

The country's future is bright indeed, provided, as has been stressed in the President's address, there is

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public co-operation and public determination; I feel the times call for it. I submit through you, Sir, that there should be complete co-operation from all of us in the country in this matter.

Mr. Chairman: Swami Ramananda Tirtha.

Shri Mohamed Imam: I would like to know the procedure that is being adopted for the selection of speakers.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member is perhaps new to the House. I am therefore submitting for his information that there is no list or fixed rule which hinds the Chair any Member who can catch the eye of the Chair will be called on to speak. But regard is always had to the fact that all parties should be represented and back-benchers as well as front benchers should get opportunities to speak. There is no fixed rule for calling a speaker; there is no fixed list with the Chair.

Swami Ramananda Tirtha (Aurangabad): After the second general elections, we meet with the rich experience gained during the lifetime of the first Parliament. The first Parliament has laid down certain democratic traditions and conventions; and, you, Sir, as Chairman, and also as a Member of this House, have helped to promote the proper functioning of this House in a manner by which even the opposition parties could be satisfied. I am saying this because we are entering upon a second phase of our democratic life and therefore, it is but natural that we shall be going in for new experiments.

A new experiment is being conducted in Kerala. We believe that democratic opposition is necessary and is conducive to the happy functioning of democracy in any country. Therefore, it is but natural for us to wish all well of the new regime, if it acts up to the professions which have been made before the people of that State. This is the first time that the comunist party has been put into power by the democratic will of the people; and, if they truly believe in democratic methods, none will be happier than myself if this experiment succeeds. I wish them all success.

The President has very aptly stated that the limitation of the explosions of the nuclear weapons is not the right way of putting a stop to the mentality and psychology of cold war. There has been a complexity in the situation and we have to understand the problem very correctly. It passes my imagination when I see that Soviet Russia is trying to make a joint appeal to the United States and U. K. for the suspension of war and for the stoppage of the nuclear explosions. I do not know why the U.S.S.R. should depend upon the grace of U.S.A. or U.K. Why not have the courage if they are sincere to take unilateral action and stop its own explosions instead of appealing to the good sense of U. S. A. and U. K.? If as they say they are wedded to the path of peace, to the method of peace, then it is the bounden duty of Soviet Russia to suspend its experiments and set an example to U. S. A. and U. K. and not depend on them to take the first step and also request Japan to join it to make up the team.

I only voice my own view when I express this feeling.

The President has very truthfully dealt with the Jarring Mission. The Government of India and the Prime Minister deserve all congratulations of this House for having adopted a very firm policy in dealing with this question. The one great advantage which this Mission has brought to us is that it will give a new appraisal to the Members of the Security Council and the U.N.O. about the Kashmir problem and it will make them realize the impact in the changed context of the situation and, therefore, a re-appraisal of the whole issue. It is no more a question of a plebiscite and

there is no question of arbitration also and therefore today the question has been again taken back to the original position and has to be solved on that basis and in that context. Therefore, when the U. N. Security Council is about to meet in a few days' time the position of India has been stated very clearly and the Government of India has all the praise for it on behalf of this House.

Much has been said about the Second Five Year Plan and the food situation. I have my own fears about the food situation. I have had ample opportunities of moving through many parts of the country and, I am afraid the statistics which are being gathered and which are being placed before us are not going to take us very much far. I feel that the next three months, particularly June and July are going to give us much headache and from what I understand from very reliable sources, I feel that the prices are going to rise and therefore let the Government beforewarned about the impending situation that may be created due to the scarcity of supplies. The President is quite right when he says that there is no question of being complacent but there is a feeling of deep concern when he considers the food situation and the food problem.

The Second Five Year Plan has been augmented and with the proposals enunciated by the Railway Minister it will be adding Rs. 200 crores more to the original size of the Plan. We have been adding to the size, but I am afraid there is one lacuna and that will harm the onward march of the Second Five Year Plan. We do not have the technical personnel. The Government is trying to promote as many endeavours, enterprises and institutions as possible. There is also another difficulty I am quite clear in my mind and I speak with all responsibility at my command and with all restraint that is possible that the administrative machinery also has been lacking in efficiency and in promptness. Only a few days' back I had the opportunity to tour some of the parts and I have to say from my personal experience that even after 2 years of the first application made, the funds have not reached those people who are making the enterprise. I only point this out to impress upon the administration that the success of the Second Five Year Plan depends as much and much more upon the efficiency of the administrative machinery as upon the co-operation and initiative of the people. Therefore, the Government would be taking the correct step if it gears up the administrative machinery and helps us to promote the development under the Second Five Year Plan.

In this second Parliament, and soon after it has assembled, I would like to throw a suggestion for its serious consideration. We have had two elections and we have all gained ample experience about good and bad elections and the features of these elections. Responsible people who have been thinking about the effective and healthy democratic functioning of this country have come forward to say that the method of election must be changed and changed basically and radically. We have to spend lakhs and lakhs and sometimes crores and if the same method continues, I am afraid no man with meagre means will be able to find a place in this august, sovereign body of the country. I am saying this with all sense of responsibility. If this body is going to be a monopoly of the few, of those whose purses can play all good and bad things, that is not going to give a true democratic content to this country. I therefore plead that this House during its life time of five years, should devise ways and means with a view to seeing that the next election to the village panchayat or village unit is held under adult franchise with a direct method of election and all the superstructure is brought into existence by indirect method.....

Shri Shree Narayan Das (Darbhanga): Will that solve the problem?

Swami Ramananda Tirtha: Please think over the matter whether it will solve the problem. I am just putting it before you for your serious consideration. It may have certain defects, but those defects will have to be removed and they are not going to be so great as the ones which you faced today in this election. The only condition for this would be that you will have to invest the village panchayat with greater powers, with fuller responsibility and with adequate resources. (*Interruption*) Let hon. Members not be so impatient. This has been well received by the Prime Minister of India. I have not got the text of his speech here. I think he says that we have to think of reorientating the method of elections that we have today and hence I am placing this point of view before the House in the very first session of the Second Parliament. If there are any defects let those defects be scrutinised and a better method devised. I am not laying any particular emphasis on this method only. I am only pointing out the difficulties. Let us not be blind to them and if there is any other method that also can be considered.

I have to say a few words about a matter which was referred to by a friend from the Opposition yesterday. I was not present in the House, but I have read a report of the speech in the newspapers. I have not got the text of it before me. But my views do not tally with those of the hon. Member. I have my own views about it and I thought it better to express those views in this House rather than outside. After the elections I have not said anything about what has happened in the State of Bombay. I purposely avoided giving expression to whatever views I held. But it would not be proper on my part to miss this opportunity. This House decided upon the present State of Bombay after the fullest consideration and after it had debated over the issue for more than a couple of months. I for one accepted the verdict of this august body as a democratic verdict and have tried to implement it to the best of my ability and according to my sincere efforts. Because, after all, the verdict of this sovereign body has to be accepted. But at the same time I felt that if there is any lacuna, if there is any lapse, any defect, anything wanting, it will be only this House that can do away with it, that can remove it and it will be only through the method of argumentation and conviction to be carried to the hon. Members of this House.

The impact of the situation cannot be ignored. I would only plead with hon. Members that it would be wrong to brush aside the results of the elections in certain parts of Bombay State as merely emotional aberrations or outbursts. It is a deep-rooted sentiment. I say it with whatever knowledge I have been able to gain during these months. Therefore, if there is anything that is wanting in the decision, it has to be seriously considered and ways and methods devised to satisfy that sentiment, if it is true, if it is genuine and if there is anything worth in that. Sir, I would only say to the Members opposite who have been talking of resignations, satyagraha, no-tax campaigns, this and that in the very first session of this Parliament, that is not the way, that is not the method of carrying conviction to this hon. body. You may gain votes from the people, but you will not convert the House by threats and by talks of resignation. I would be only too glad. I stand for a unilingual State even today and I would be glad if this House in its own ripe wisdom changes its previous decision. Nobody should challenge the collective wisdom of this House. If this House has taken some decision it has to be respected and has to be acted upon. At the same time I plead humbly, sincerely and in all earnestness for a revision of it, if the people so feel it and the feeling of the people in that particular part of the country has to be respected.

Shri S. K. Banerjee (Cooch Behar): Sir, having had the opportunity of representing the tea growing areas

of West Bengal in North East India, I deem it my duty to invite the attention of this House to the great problems besetting the industry, not only in the particular interest of the people of my constituency but in the large interest of our country. I shall not take the time of the House in making observations about the national importance of this industry which is already known to it, nor do I like to burden you with details of statistics.

I do not wish to speak about any reduction or remission of taxes or other impositions, reduction of wages, etc. As matters stand now, common tea is often sold below cost of production. The gap in world supplies has been filled by increased production in Ceylon, by India's own efforts and marked rise in production in the African territories. These territories have so far tended to produce teas of a common nature, and as such, they are competitors with similar teas in the older tea growing countries like India.

The total production of tea in India is about 650 million lbs and out of this North East India alone produces about 520 million lbs. Half the production of the North East Indian tea is of common nature and the balance is of quality. As such there is keen competition between us and those countries which produce common tea at lesser cost. East Africa last year produced about 60 to 65 million lbs of common tea and she is rapidly increasing her production. On the top of that African tea has no export duty. Our out market buyers buy common tea from those countries which offer a lower price and as such the North East India producers had to face a competitive market in which on account of higher cost of production they are not in a position to compete.

In order to avoid overproduction the North East Indian producers regulated their crop during the end of last year by about 25 million lbs. By doing so the market was stabilised and the common tea of North East India has escaped a great loss. This year again there is an apprehension that the total production of the world would exceed the demand and as such the common tea of North East India will be sold at the buyer's discretion. So to meet this catastrophe the North East Indian producers shall be forced again to cut down their crop as was done last year. The regulation of crop will not solve the problem, because the policy of the Government of India is to increase production. Some may ask why these gardens should not make quality tea. My reply to that would be that quality derives from good fortune of location, climate and soil. If this over-production is allowed to continue, the fate of the common tea producers in North East India is very grave. In the event of loss, Government will lose the taxes and labour will not share the prosperity and other will be deprived of their interests.

Tea in North East India is a seasonal production, and the season starts with the rain and goes with the rain. So tea should not be treated on the same lines as other industries.

I should mention here that about two-thirds of the total production of Indian tea is exported and one-third —which is about 200 million lbs.— is released in India for Indian consumption. I would now suggest that Government may advise the Tea Board to accelerate the internal consumption in such a manner that the North-Eastern Indian producers may not be required to regulate and the price realised for common tea be over cost of production.

Finally, it is of the utmost importance to India's tea industry that no stone should be left unturned to revive the International Tea Agreement as early as practicable, to control the exports from the principal producing countries. I again place it before the House that unless ways and means are found out to solve this

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problem, the fate of the common tea in North East India is very gloomy.

Shri Bharucha (East Khandesh): I am grateful to you, Sir, that at long last I have been able to catch your eye. It appears to me that fighting elections is comparatively a very easy task, compared to the task of catching the eye of the Speaker!

Sir, I propse to take exactly fifteen minutes, because I have been noticing that as a result of hon. Members encroaching upon the generosity of the Chair, there is a likelihood of other Members not getting a chance to speak. I desire to speak.....

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member need not criticise the Chair. This is rather premature. When he ultimately finds how many speakers have spoken and from which parties, then he will be in a better position to appreciate things.

Shri Bharucha: May I submit that all that I was doing was I was trying to subject myself to a self-denying ordinance?

Mr. Chairman: At least for the first few days every Member must think that he is not the only Member who has to be called. The Chair has to look to the number of parties. Now, the hon. Member may have just seen that I have been calling several Members of the Congress Party; but if he remembers the proportion between the Congress and the other parties, he will certainly appreciate that still there is a restraint of some kind and that the Members on this side belonging to the Congress Party are not very much in evidence compared to other parties. So let him be patient and see ultimately whether the scales are even or are shifting in favour of any party.

Shri Bharucha: All I can say is this. Some of us have felt rather dissatisfied about it, and it would be desirable if the Speaker and some of the Members sit together and discuss this matter.

Mr. Chairman: He can refer to the Speaker if he is dissatisfied, but there is no cause for it so far. This is only the third day and he should not think that Members have not been dealt fairly.

Mr. Bharucha: I propose to speak on amendments Nos. 31 to 35 dealing with the States Reorganisation, the Second Five Year Plan—I shall briefly touch upon these questions—then I shall refer to the Life Insurance Corporation Act Amendment and also refer to the question of stoppage of thermo-nuclear tests.

With regard to States Reorganisation, we who have been elected on the Samyukta Maharashtra ticket have always felt that a very great injustice has been done when the principles of unilingual State has been accepted in the case of thirteen States and denied only in the case of Maharashtra and Gujarat. We have been repeatedly told that Maharashtra and Gujarat cannot be given unilingual States "in the interests of the country". But nobody has ever defined what the interest of the country is. And today, within the House, I enquire of the Government Benches if anybody could tell me "one, two, three, four, these are the interests of the country that will be endangered if the fourteenth and fifteenth unilingual States are created"—because thirteen have already been created. I submit that we in Maharashtra and Maha Gujarat have felt deeply this injustice. It is no use telling us that this is a passing linguistic fanaticism. I assure the House it has come to stay. May I tell you it is not linguistic fanaticism, because I, a non-Maharashtrian, went to East Khandesh and defeated the former Minister of Law after only thirty-five days of election campaign? What was that due to? It was because inherently the people voted for an ideology. Let Members completely dissolusion their minds of this "passing phase". That particular ideology has come to stay, and the sooner this honourable House rectifies this error and injustice

that has been done the better for the country.

It is no use saying that the House has taken a decision and that it cannot be changed. It is a fundamental principle of democracy that the Opposition must have an opportunity to convince the other side. Four times the Government has changed its view with regard to Bombay. First they accepted the principle that was enunciated by the States Reorganisation Commission and then came the three-State formulae. Again they changed it and said that Bombay will be an industrial capital of India and that Bombay would be Centrally administered. And then came this question of a bigger bi-lingual State. If the Government could change its mind four times, why not for a fifth time also?

With regard to the Second Five Year Plan, if one must look at the Plan in the background of the financial statement that was produced before this House by the hon. the Finance Minister last March, one comes to these figures that the Centre has got, during this second year of the Second Five Year Plan, to fork out Rs. 772 crores, plus a deficit of Rs. 27 crores which the hon. the Finance Minister mentioned in his 19th March 1957 statement and Rs. 32 crores towards payment for maturing loans. In other words, the Centre has to provide for Rs. 831 crores. As against that, what we expect is that market loans will fetch Rs. 100 crores, small savings Rs. 80 crores, foreign aid Rs. 135 crores, and miscellaneous debt and remittance transactions might give you Rs. 151 crores. That is to say, your resources are Rs. 466 crores as against a demand on your purse to the extent of Rs. 831 crores, leaving a clear deficit of Rs. 365 crores—a deficit of Rs. 365 crores merely on paper, but which is very much enhanced if you take into consideration the difficulties, recently created due to various reasons like the stoppage of the Suez Canal or the enlargement of the Second Five Year Plan or the very heavy drafts on foreign resources that have been made recently. Some of the speakers have referred in this House to the fact that we are in difficulties in connection with foreign exchange. Nobody has so far mentioned that only within ten months ending with January, 1957, this Government has drawn upon foreign resources to the extent of Rs. 235 crores, leaving a balance with them of Rs. 530 crores only. Therefore, it seems that we have come to the end of our tether with regard to foreign exchange.

Though one hates the idea of having to expand the Five Year Plan into a Six Year Plan or a Seven Year Plan, it seems to me that it is quite inevitable and the sooner we adjust ourselves to the view that an expansion of the Five Year Plan into a Six Year Plan at least is inevitable, the better it would be for us and for others who have to execute the Plan. They will know the mind of the Government and the policy of the Planning Commission with more precision.

Coming to the food question, may I point out that I was rather surprised at what seemed to be contradictory statements in the Food Minister's statement that he placed before the House yesterday. In one part of the statement he mentioned that generally speaking, there is no rise in the price of foodgrains. And yet, he appoints a high-powered Committee to enquire as to why the price of foodgrains rose in spite of higher production. I would like to know what is passing in the mind of the hon. Minister of Food. Does he believe that there is any rise in the price of foodgrains or not? If he believes in it the appointment of the high-powered Committee is all right. If there is no such thing, what is this high-powered Committee going to say? This seems self-contradictory to me.

Also it appears to me that in the overall food position, if the statistics are correct, about which people entertain grave doubts, there is no shortage and it is a question of maldistribution. Whether it is maldistribution or wagon shortage, I do not know. If we are importing on such a huge unprecedented scale as

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a result of the American Agreement of August, 1956, I fail to see why there should be a rise in the prices. I for one will not believe that cornering in foodgrains is on such a colossal scale as to make any appreciable difference in prices. That is not so. The conclusion seems to be inevitable that there is overall shortage and the statistics given by the Government are not correct.

Coming to the Life Insurance Corporation Act amendment, may I say that while I am not against promulgation of Ordinances to amend such errors as may become patent as a result of pronouncement of judgments, in the case of the amendment of section 11 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, amendment by Ordinance was totally undesirable. Here was a case in which the employees had won their right through recognised tribunals, through recognised law courts. Just because the Government substituted itself as a new employer, it has no moral right whatsoever to change the terms and conditions of service of the employees unilaterally. I strongly protest against that. I say that I am not against promulgation of Ordinance for rectifying such errors as they become patent as a result of judgments of law courts, provided that bread is not taken away from the mouth of workers.

Coming finally to the question of stoppage of thermo-nuclear tests, in the Address, reference has been made to the Standstill Agreement of April, 1954, which was mentioned by the hon. Prime Minister on the floor of the House. But, since April 1954, by now, three years have elapsed and vast changes have taken place in the development and technique of atomic energy. While we are mentioning in the Address the fact that the Prime Minister's suggestion of 1954 is there, may I tell the House that the atomic clock is ticking fast and it is really a race between the atom and the human being. Today it is not readily realised what great damage and havoc the hydrogen bomb can work. It has been estimated that during the last world war, all told, 5 million tons of high explosives were dropped on enemy countries. Today, a single hydrogen bomb is capable of inflicting havoc equivalent to 15 million tons of high explosives. In other words, a single hydrogen bomb can work three times the havoc that all the high explosives during the entire war could do. And please remember that neither Russia nor the U.S.A. have got one hydrogen bomb in their stock-pile.

14.56 hrs.

[SARDAR HUKAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

Therefore, we are really faced with such a big problem that humanity has got to solve it or, in the end, perish. I feel that it is not merely a question of the damage that a hydrogen bomb can inflict as a result of high explosives. The resulting radioactivity of the bomb, particularly what is known as strontium-90 is of such a terrible character and cumulative in its nature, that unless our Government takes serious notice of the fact and calls a conference of nations, particularly, of the nuclear powers, and makes a deliberate, conscious, persistent effort, these nuclear tests are going to launch us into a very difficult position. Probably it is not realised by the layman what this radioactivity is. When a particular nuclear explosion takes place, fission or fusion, certain types of rays emanate. But, they do not stop or dissipate in space or disperse. They keep on emanating for half the life time of the mineral which is used as the fuel. For instance, if it is radium, for 1600 years. This radiation will keep on emanating and if any fish or human being or object is affected with a concentration of this radiation, then, for 1600 years, that particular object will also keep on emanating this radiation. Therefore, with every test, the results of the last tests

are not wiped out or dispersed or dissipated. The results are cumulative. Every time a test is made, the danger is aggravated. Today, I repeat, human ingenuity has discovered this hydrogen bomb, a single bomb capable of releasing all the explosive power that has been released since the dawn of human history—three times more than that. Its radiation effects have not yet been felt completely. The scientists say that for the explosions which took place in 1954, the fall out has travelled into ionosphere and stratosphere and it will be 1960 or 1965 or 1970 before the fall-outs will be descending on earth. Today, we do not even know whether they have not already saturated our higher atmosphere, stratosphere and ionosphere to such an extent that we have already passed the time or limit or dose which the human constitution can stand. That being the position, the President's Address refers only to the 1954 Standstill Agreement that our Prime Minister enunciated. I appeal to him—I know he looks into the question very seriously—to take the initiative, to call an all-power conference, particularly with the object of stopping these tests. I want the hon. Prime Minister to go with a beggar's bowl to the nuclear powers and tell them that in the name of humanity he begs this release from radiation to which humanity is subjected by a generous, kind, unilateral act of any nuclear power which will suspend nuclear tests unilaterally without waiting for other powers to do so. I do feel that this subject is so serious and so imminent that it is very necessary that a great deal more active interest must be taken by our Government, than a mere narration or mention in the address that the Standstill Agreement of 1954 is there. As I said, it is a race between the bomb and the human being. Who will win, one does not know. While we are sitting here debating, I repeat once again, the atomic clock is ticking fast. Mankind has secured knowledge enough to destroy humanity. May we pray that Providence grant him wisdom enough to pseserve it.

15 hrs.

Shri Mahanty (Dhenkanal): The President's Address is a convenient peg on which one can hang all one's accumulated grievances. But I would like to utilise this occasion for mentioning only two points which I have referred to in my amendment No. 16, namely Kashmir, and the food situation.

Much has been said about the food situation in the country, and, therefore, I would not further dilate on it. I am happy to find that there has been a recognition from both sides of the House that the food situation today is not as hopeful and as reassuring as it has been painted in the President's Address.

But before I come to that, I should like to touch on the Kashmir question. I know this particular question bristles with difficulties, and I would therefore, have hesitated to speak on it at this stage, if only the Prime Minister had not made it an election issue during the recent elections. Wherever he went to canvass for votes for the Congress, he said, "vote for Congress to strengthen my hands to solve the Kashmir question".

So, naturally, I was scanning through the President's Address to find indications of the policy which the Prime Minister and his Government would pursue in solving the Kashmir question. But I regret to say that the President's Address contained even less than what the newspapers stated in this regard about a month ago.

The President's Address contained only a brief mention that Dr. Gunnar Jarring came to this country, had conferences twice with the Prime Minister and then left and submitted a report. The purpose why I have given notice of this amendment is to know from Government where actually Government stand, where actually the people stand so far as the question of Kashmir is concerned.

The genesis of this question is well-known. Therefore, I shall not dilate on it. It goes back to the year 1947.

[Shri Mahanty]

On 26th October, 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh acceded to the Union of India, after which Kashmir became a part of India. Thereafter started the most brazen-faced aggression by Pakistan under cover of tribal inroads. To me, it seems, as the years have rolled on, a minor domestic issue. While India has been facing almost every year such border troubles both in the east and in the west, I do not know why Government carried this question to the Security Council. India approached the Security Council on 1st January, 1948. But the question having been taken to the Security Council, it pains me to say that the record of our Indian delegation in the Security Council was a tale of bungling.

In the Security Council, India alleged that Pakistan had invaded in lawful part of the Indian territory. But anyone who goes through the agenda paper of 1st January, 1948, of the Security Council would find that it was mentioned as the Jammu and Kashmir question. I do not know why the scope of this simple question was enlarged, and all kinds of things were brought into, beginning from Junagadh to genocide. Then, the item 'Jammu and Kashmir question' on the agenda paper was changed to 'Indo-Pakistan question', which included all kinds of disputes that had been going on between India and Pakistan, as I said, from Junagadh to genocide. This thoughtless acquiescence of the Indian delegation in the enlargement of the scope of the item not only confused simple issues but committed a tragic mistake by conceding to the implication that both India and Pakistan stood on an equal footing so far as this particular question was concerned. That made a great deal of difference.

India went to the Security Council for Pakistan had invaded Indian territory. But our delegation came back after having acquiesced in all the allegations that Pakistan thought fit to level against India. This tragic mistake, this tragic shortcoming has vitiated that question since then.

In the meantime, various missions have visited India, beginning from the Graham mission to the Jarring mission. But I would like to know for how long the people will be kept in suspense. For the time being, place yourself in the position of the Kashmiris and I would like to ask you the question 'would you like to continue as a people under a sort of political vacuum *ad infinitum*?'. Certainly, you would not like it.

Now, the real test is this. You should tell the country what you are proposing to do about it. This brings me to another point and that is this. When the Kashmir question was being debated upon in February last in the Security Council, when it was proposed that a mission under the leadership of Mr. Gunnar Jarring would visit India to investigate whether the resolution of August 13th, of the Security Council had been fully implemented, the leader of the Indian delegation categorically stated that the acceptance of that resolution would mean that India's allegations were not correct and that they were subject to investigation. Therefore, the leader of the Indian delegation was of the view that the Government of India would extend all courtesies that are due to an eminent dignitary like Mr. Gunnar Jarring, but they would not go beyond that. But we found that something more than that was done. Mr. Gunnar Jarring came and had two conferences with our Prime Minister, contrary to what was stated by the leader of our delegation and by the Government of India; and he has left a report and has now given another handle to Pakistan to beat India with. It pains me to say that this vascillating attitude of the Government of India has been the main reason why the Kashmir question remains yet unresolved.

May we know what justification is there that India should still conform to the international commitment for plebiscite, which she gave in the year 1948, when the circumstances were different? In the meantime, a Con-

stituent Assembly elected on the adult suffrage of the entire people of Kashmir came into existence and that Assembly had unequivocally passed a resolution for integration with India. May I know, therefore, what justification there is now for still sticking to that commitment, when the circumstances have now changed, and changed beyond recognition?

Now, Pakistan or her sympathisers have no face to say that India is backing out of an international commitment. If the Security Council had acquiesced in Pakistan's default of implementing the resolution of August 13th, if the Security Council could swallow it, if the Security Council could let the matter lie, why should the Government of India be so afraid, especially in view of the popular will that has been expressed by the people of Kashmir, that she will still abide by the commitment which was given in the year 1948?

Without futher dilating on the matter, we would like to know, and the country would like to know, how the Prime Minister is going to move about in the matter.

I now come to the question of food. I am glad, as I have said earlier, that there has been a great deal of recognition from both sides of the House that the food situation is not as hopeful and as reassuring as it has been presented, in the President's Address. But the problem has to be viewed in the proper perspective. In the First Five Year Plan, the whole bias was in favour of food and agriculture.

A total amount of Rs. 357 crores, representing about 15.1 per cent. of the total investment, was earmarked for food and agriculture. In the Second Plan also, the total amount which has been ear-marked for food is, I think, Rs. 568 crores, representing 11·8 per cent, out of which the volume of current outlay will be of the order of more than Rs. 250 crores. The Second Plan has also assured that the food production would increase from 65 million tons in 1955-56 to 75 million tons in 1960-61.

In spite of these prophecies, we are now faced with food shortages and reported starvation deaths. Crop failure and unfavourable weather conditions are assigned as the chief reasons for this catastrophe. But in view of the overall increase in food production, it really baffles my imagination why there should be this kind of food shortage. I do not hesitate to say that the failure of the Food Ministry in this particular matter has been almost brazen and dismal. I will substantiate this allegation by citing a simple example.

The House will remember that in the First Five Year Plan it was recommended that there should be set up a Central Warehousing Corporation and State Warehousing Corporations. This recommendation goes back to the year 1951. Now, this country had to wait for this simple thing till the year 1957. Only on the 2nd of March of this year the Central Warehousing Corporation came into existance, and one does not know when the State Warehousing Corporations will come into existence. If the Central Warehousing Corporation had been created and the State Warehousing Corporations had come into existence early, certainly this food shortage would have been met and today there would not have been this problem of spirally rising food prices.

If you do not call this a dismal failure, if you do not call this a brazen failure, I do not know what failure is. It is unfortunate that in this country one puts premium on such failures.

Connected with this question of food scarcity is also the question of spiralling increase of Food prices. The Minister in his statement has quoted certain figures to show that food prices have really recorded a decrease instead of increase. Quoting statistics to silence or mislead one's critics is a well-known Eurasian method. But I would like to know if the statements bear any correspondence to real facts as they obtain in this country today. Even the statistics, tell a dubious tale. For instance, the wholesale price index for January 1957 had recorded

[Shri Mahanty]

an increase of 12·3 per cent over the wholesale price index for January 1956. In January 1956, it was 376 per cent. and it shot up to 422 3 per cent. in January 1957. The break-up is as follows: industrial raw material have advanced by 1·5 per cent. manufactures by 0.1 per cent. and miscellaneous by 0:4 per cent. I hold and maintain that the rest accounts for the increase in the price of foodstuffs. If it is otherwise, I would very much like to be corrected by the hon. Minister that it is not so. The country should also be told so.

I was very much pained when the hon. Food Minister stated that this food shortage was due to increased consumption. It was almost a cruel joke to the thousands who have been starving. He could have spared the country this cruel joke. If he cannot give them food, at least he can spare them these cruel jokes. I will be failing in my duty if I really do not challenge it. Hoarding is the real cause. May I know if he has got any power in his hands to bring these hoarders and black-marketeers to book ?

The other day while I was coming, I was told in Patna that at the Patna station large quantities of foodstuffs were seized by the police. While Bihar was starving, there were hoarders and black-marketeers who were exporting those foodgrains outside. The police had seized them. I do not know what is the amount of contribution to the Congress election fund. But the Government professes its inability to bring those persons to book simply because there is no law in the armoury of the powerful Government of India to do so. I hold and maintain—and I am quite emphatic about it—that hoarding is the real cause, and only to safeguard the interests of hoarders the Central Warehousing Corporation was not probably created antil the 2nd March 1957.

An Hon. Member: Too much.

Shri Mahanty: That apart, I will make three constructive suggestions to solve this problem, and I hope the hon. Food Minister will give serious consideration to them. The first is that our food imports must be stopped here and now. If you mean business, you will never allow your foreign exchange to be wasted in importing rice and wheat. This may seem something very novel, but look at what they are doing in China. It was a deficit country. Overnight, an importing country has been exporting food. It is not by any magic or totalitarian methods as some would imagine. I have studied this question at some length.

Pandit K. C. Sharma (Hapur): But not intelligently.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member will do better if he remains impervious to such interruptions.

Shri Mahanty: Yes, Sir.

In China, they have been able to stockpile food and export foodgrains outside by adopting three methods. One was by imposing rationing in the cities. I do not know why there should be no rationing in the cities, because, after all, the city dwellers are not the primary producers (Interruptions).

An Hon. Member: Ignore the interruptions.

Shri Mahanty: The faces of my hon. friends are so charming that I cannot ignore their interruptions.

We, city dwellers, are not primary producers; we are parasites. May be, we are intellectual workers, but we are not the primary producers. Therefore, we have no right to demand an unlimited supply of foodstuffs while the primary producers are starving and really suffering, be it due to inflationary trends or be it on the score of actual shortage. One thing I noticed

in China was that in all the cities, there was rigorous rationing of food. I think that example is worth emulating.

The second method that they have followed in China very successfully is the requisitioning of foodgrains in villages beyond a certain level, allowing the villagers or cultivators foodgrains for their annual consumption necessities. The balance is requisitioned by the State.

The third method is that they realise their land revenue from the co-operatives not in cash but in kind, and that is usually in foodgrains.

This is how they have stockpiled foodgrains in China and have been able to export foodgrains outside. Here, when we are faced with an acute shortage of foreign exchange, when we have not got enough money to spend on our nation-building activities, it is really criminal to go on importing foodgrains year after year in increasing volume. It may be that our psychological make-up may not accept these suggestions with an optimistic spirit. But, I am sure the Communist party is there to lend all the support to Government for these unpleasant measures, if they consider them at all unpleasant. These are the measures they have followed in China to make the country self-sufficient in food. I do not know why the Government of India should hesitate to consider those policies and methods to make our country self-sufficient. Otherwise, they will be faced with the necessity of going on importing foodstuffs in an ever-increasing volume to the great detriment of the implementation of the Second Five Year Plan.

Lastly, I would like to say that quoting statistics has really no relevance to or correspondence with the life that we are living. It is really a tale of misery, a tale of tears, and probably too deep for tears. It is really criminal on the part of the Congress to have begged votes from them and assured them that the country would flow with milk and honey and now to profess incapacity and totter out some euphemistic reasonings like unfavourable weather, increased consumption, hoarding and so on and so forth to throttle the voice of the hungry and the starved.

With these words I resume my seat but before I do so I would like to offer my grateful thanks for your having given me an opportunity to speak.

लाला अचिंत राम (पटियाला) : साहिबे सदर, मैं आपका बड़ा मशकूर हूं कि आप ने बगैर ज्यादा कोशिश के ही मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया है ।

सभापति महोदय : लेकिन यह बात कही तो नहीं जानी चाहिए । इससे दूसरों को ख्याल होगा कि आप को तो बगैर कोशिश के मौका मिल गया है, जब कि उन को कोशिश के बावजूद नहीं बुलाया गया है ।

लाला अचिंत राम : प्रेजिडेंट साहब ने फोरन पालिसी के बारे में फरमाया है कि तमाम मुल्कों के साथ हमारी दोस्ती है । इससे पहले एड्रेस में यह कहा गया है कि सिवाय पाकिस्तान के सब मुल्कों के साथ हमारी दोस्ती है । मैं समझता हूं कि पाकिस्तान के मुताल्लिक जो हमारी पालिसी है, वह मैत्री और दोस्ती की है, और वह कामयाब हो रही है । जिस वक्त पाकिस्तान कायम हुआ, उस वक्त वहां मुस्लिम लीग की हकूमत थी । उससे हमें टैम्प्टेशन हो सकता था कि हमारे मुल्क में भी किसी फिर्कावार पार्टी की हकूमत हो । लेकिन हम ने अपनी सैकुलरिज्म की पालिसी को स्टिक किया और अपने उसूलों पर बराबर कायम रहे । आज हम महसूस करते हैं कि हम ने ठीक किया और हमारी वह पालिसी कामयाब हो रही है । आज पाकिस्तान में मुस्लिम लीग की जगह रिपब्लिकन पार्टी और अवामी लीग को मिल रही है । इसी तरह हिन्दुस्तान में शुरू से ही जायंट इलैक्टरेट रखे गए, जब कि पाकिस्तान में सैपेरेट इलैक्टरेट जारी किए गए । आज हम देख रहे हैं कि पाकिस्तान के

[लाला अचित राम]

दोनों हिस्सों में—ईस्ट और वैस्ट पाकिस्तान में—डायरेक्ट इलैक्टरेट के उसूल को कबूल कर लिया है। इससे जाहिर है कि हिन्दुस्तान की फारेन पालिसी के साथ ही साथ उस की इन्टर्नल पालिसी भी मुकम्मल तौर पर कामयाब हुई है। मैं महसूस करता हूं कि पाकिस्तान में ऐसी हवा चल रही है, ऐसे आसार नजर आ रहे हैं कि वहां भी हिन्दुस्तान की एक्टिव न्यूट्रेलिटी की पालिसी को अपना लिया जायगा। इसके लिए अब वहां आवाज उठ रही है।

मैं यह भी देख रहा हूं कि कंस्ट्रक्टिव सोल्ड में खान अब्दुल गफ्फार खां पाकिस्तान में वही आवाज उठा रहा है जो कि हिन्दुस्तान में आचार्य विनोबा भावे उठा रहे हैं। आचार्य विनोबा भावे का कहना है कि अगर हिन्दुस्तान की जमीन प्राबलम को हल करना है, इकनामिक प्राबलम को हल करना है, तो उस का रास्ता भूदान है। इसी तरह खान अब्दुल गफ्फार खां लाहौर में कह रहे हैं कि अगर पाकिस्तान की इकनामिक प्राबलम को हल करना है, तो उस का हल भूदान है। पाकिस्तान वाले इस रास्ते पर चलें या न चलें, यह एक अलग बात है। मैं गवर्नमेंट को—और खास तौर पर पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू को मुबारकबाद देना चाहता हूं, क्योंकि इस मुल्क की फारेन पालिसी को मोल्ड करने में उन का बहुत बड़ा हिस्सा है। हम ने और मुल्कों को भी ठीक किया है और पाकिस्तान को भी ठीक कर रहे हैं।

प्रैजिडेंट साहब के एड्रेस में यह भी कहा गया है कि यहां की इकनामिक कन्डीशन्ज डेंजरस नहीं हैं, लेकिन वैरी सीरियस हैं। अक्लमन्द आदमी ऐसे ही कहते हैं। लेकिन इलाज क्या है इसका? उन्होंने चार इलाज बताए हैं। और वे इलाज यह हैं—एग्रीकल्चर के मामले में सैल्फ सफिशिएन्सी हासिल करना, अपनी इम्पोर्ट को कंट्रोल करना, एक्सपोर्ट को बढ़ाना और सेविंग करना। सवाल यह है कि ये सब बातें कौन करे! आखिर किस को ये बातें एड्रेस की जा रही हैं! मैं समझता हूं कि उन्होंने एड्रेस में कहा है कि हम जनता से अपील करते हैं कि वह कोआपरेशन दे। उन्होंने फूड के बारे में जरा एहतियात से कहा है ताकि लोगों में एलार्म और डर न पैदा हो जाये, लेकिन इस मसले का हल आखिर जनता ने ही करना है। और वह जनता कहां है? वह हिन्दुस्तान के साढ़े पांच लाख गांवों में है। जब तक जनता को आपरेट नहीं करते, तब तक हमारा कोई मसला भी हल नहीं हो सकता है, चाहे हम कितने ही ऐलान और अपीलें करते रहें। हम ने देखा कि किदवई साहब ने किस तरह इस मसले को हल कर दिखाया। लेकिन अब वह हालत नहीं है। मैं समझता हूं कि जब तक बुनियादी बात को टच न किया जायेगा और को-आपरेशन देने वालों को एप्रोच न किया जायगा, तब तक यह मसला हल नहीं हो सकता है—पचास बरस तक भी हल नहीं हो सकता है, चाहे हमारे जैन साहब कुछ भी करें या कहें। यह चक्कर चलता रहेगा और हम कामयाब नहीं होंगे।

हमारे विनोबा जी पिछले ६—चार महीनों से इस मुल्क की इकानोमी को साउंड फुटिंग पर लाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। वह चाहते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान के साढ़े पांच लाख गांवों में हर तरह की इक्वैलिटी हो और इन-इक्वैलिटी खत्म हो। वह हिन्दुस्तान के सब से बड़े मसले को हल करने के लिए जी जान से कोशिश कर रहे हैं। मैं समझता हूं कि सब आदमी उन की तारीफ कर रहे हैं और हमारे प्रेसिडेन्ट साहब भी उनके बड़े मद्दाह हैं। लेकिन इस पर भी उनके एड्रेस में विनोबा जी की एफर्ट्स का कोई जिक्र नहीं किया गया है। शायद इसकी वजह यह हो कि वह गवर्नमेंट के हैड हैं और गवर्नमेंट का हैड होते हुए भी ऐसा कहना मुनासिब न समझते हों। मैं बड़ी नम्रता के साथ कहना चाहता हूं कि गवर्नमेंट के साथ तो आप लोगों का ताल्लुक अभी हाल ही में हुआ है। यह गवर्नमेंट रिजल्ट है उन एफर्ट्स का

जो कि सत्तर बरस तक आप लोग करते रहे। इसलिए मैं समझता हूं कि इस मामले में गवर्नमेंट में होने या न होने से कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ना चाहिए। इस वक्त तक ढाई हजार गांव विनोबा जी ले चुके हैं, जिन में पूरी इक्वैलिटी है और जहां फूड प्राबलम नहीं रहेगी। इसलिए मैं अपने नेताओं से यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि वे गवर्नमेंट के चोले को एक तरफ रख कर इस तरफ आयें और पूरे तौर पर इस काम में मदद दें।

मुझे इस बात की भी बहुत खुशी है कि इस मामले में हम लोगों में कोई मत-भेद नहीं है। कांग्रेस, जन संघ, कम्यूनिस्ट—सब एक हैं। केरल की कम्यूनिस्ट गवर्नमेंट ने ऐलान किया कि जमीन का मसला लैजिस्लेशन से हल नहीं हो सकता है। मैं ने अपने कानों से केरल के एक मिनिस्टर का यह स्टेटमेंट सुना। मुझे बड़ी हैरानी हुई। उन्होंने कहा कि यह मसला हल होगा लोगों के सहयोग से। जब कम्यूनिस्ट गवर्नमेंट यह बात कह सकती है, तो फिर यह बड़ी गवर्नमेंट क्यों नहीं कह सकती है। आज सारा हिन्दुस्तान इस पायंट पर इकट्ठा है। जहां तक मेरा ताल्लुक है, मैं बिल्कुल नान वायलेंट हूं और को-अर्शन के हक में नहीं हूं, लेकिन अगर इस मामले में लैजिस्लेशन के साथ साथ थोड़ा कोअर्शन भी करना पड़े, तो मुझे उस पर कोई ऐतराज नहीं होगा—मैं उस के हक में हूं।

मैं चाहता हूं कि आप तमाम पांच लाख गांवों का ग्रामीकरण कर दें। यदि आपने ऐसा किया तो यह मसला हमेशा के लिए हल हो जाएगा।

अब मैं चन्द एक बातें पंजाब के बारे में अर्ज करना चाहता हूं। मुझे इस बात की खुशी है कि पंजाब के मसले को सैंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने हल करने की कोशिश की है और मुझे इस बात की भी खुशी है कि सैंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने इस मसले को हल भी किया और यह बात ठीक भी है। लेकिन इसके साथ ही साथ आपको इस बात पर भी ध्यान देना चाहिए कि क्या इस हल ने पूरी सैटिसफैक्शन लोगों को दे दी है। अगर आप यह समझते हैं कि इस ने सब को सैटिस-फैक्शन दे दी है, तो यह मुनासिब नहीं है और अगर आपने ऐसा सोचा तो यह अन्याय होगा गलती होगी। मैं आपके सामने एक छोटी सी मिसाल दे कर इस चीज को साफ करने की कोशिश करूंगा। एक आदमी को जूते की जरूरत है। यह जूता उसको दोनों पांव के लिए चाहिए। वह मोची को कहता है कि मुझे जूता बना दो। मोची एक पांव का नाप ले लेता है और यह समझ कर कि दूसरे पांव का नाप भी यही होगा वह जूता तैयार कर देता है। लेकिन जब जूता बनकर तैयार हो जाता है तो एक पांव में तो फिट आ जाता है लेकिन दूसरे पांव में लगता है। क्या इसका यह फल निकलता है कि मोची ने गलती की है। नहीं, यह तो एक कामनसैंस की बात है कि दोनों पांव एक जैसे होंगे और उनमें कोई फर्क नहीं होगा। लेकिन फिर भी एक पांव दर्द करता है जब कि दूसरे पांव में कोई दर्द नहीं होती है या कम दर्द होती है। तो मैं कहूंगा कि पंजाब का मसला भी ऐसा ही है। इस मसले को हल तो किया गया है और नेकनियती से हल किया गया है लेकिन मैं यह कहे बिना नहीं रह सकता कि इसको ओवर कानफिडेंस के साथ हल किया गया है। कानफिडेंस के साथ हल किया जाता तब तो ठीक था लेकिन ओवर कानफिडेंस के साथ जो इसे हल किया गया है वह ठीक नहीं है। कानफिडेंस और ओवर कानफिडेंस में फर्क है। जो अक्लमन्द मोची होता है, जो अक्लमन्द शू मेकर होता है वह यह देखता है कि जूता उसके पांव में ठीक बैठता है या नहीं। अगर ठीक नहीं है तो इसके कई इलाज हो सकते हैं। वह इसको बदल सकता है या कोई दूसरा तरीका इस्तेमाल में ला सकता है। यह जरूरी नहीं है कि उस जूते को फेंक ही दिया जाए। उसमें तेल लगा कर, पानी लगाकर, होल्स करके, एक्सपैंड करके उसको ठीक किया जा सकता है या कोई दूसरा तरीका इस्तेमाल में लाया जा सकता है। अगर जूता दर्द करता है तो इसका इलाज

[लाला अचित राम]

भी मोची ढूंढ सकता है । मैं समझता हूं कि इस मामले के अन्दर ओवर कांफिडेन्स से काम लिया गया है और जो हल निकाला गया है उससे थोड़ी सी कठिनाई पैदा हो गई है । मैं कहता हूं कि जूते को फेंकने की जरूरत नहीं है । इस जूते को ट्रायल दिया जाना चाहिए, इसको पहन कर देखना चाहिए और मोची को यह भी देखना चाहिए कि दर्द क्यों होता है और उसको दूर करने की भी कोशिश करनी चाहिए कि यह दर्द ऐसा नहीं है जो ठीक ही नहीं हो सकता है, थोड़ी सी कोशिश करने से दर्द हट सकता है ।

Mr. Chairman: Could not the hon. Member refer to some better analogy?

लाला अचिन्त राम : मैं मानता हूं कि आप अकेले ही इस हाउस में खड़े होकर इस मसले को इस हाउस के सामने बड़े ही अच्छे ढंग से रखते रहे हैं । आपने इसका हल सुझाया था और आप अकेले.....

Mr. Chairman: I do not mean to draw the attention of the Hon. Member towards me.

लाला अचिन्त राम : लेकिन जो चीज आपके क्रेडिट में जाती है, उसको मानने में मुझे कोई इन्कार नहीं है । मैं आपको उसके लिए क्रेडिट दिए बगैर नहीं रह सकता हूं ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : यह जूता कब तक दर्द करता रहेगा ?

लाला अचिन्त राम : जब तक आप इसमें मददगार नहीं बनते ।

तो मैं यह कह रहा था कि जो दर्द है उसको दूर करने का कोई उपाय ढूंढा जाना चाहिए और क्यों दर्द होता है उसका पता लगाया जाना चाहिए । इस दर्द का नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि वे लोग जिन्होंने कि नैशनलिज्म की बुनियाद डाली, जिन्होंने कौम परस्ती का झंडा हाथ में लिया आज इससे विमुख होते जा रहे हैं और तबाही फिरका परस्ती की राह की तरफ देख रहे हैं । उन लोगों ने जिन्होंने एस० आर० सी० की रिपोर्ट में जो सिफारिशें की हैं उनको ठीक बताया, आज उनको भी दर्द होना शुरू हो गया है । आज हालात ऐसे हैं कि आप को इसके बारे में सोच समझ कर कोई कदम उठाना होगा । इसको फेंकने की जरूरत नहीं है । आप इसको पूरा ट्रायल दें और ईमानदारी से दें । इस दर्द का जो कारण है अगर आप उसको ईमानदारी से देखेंगे तो आपको पता लग जाएगा और आप उसको दूर भी कर सकेंगे। यह कोई मुश्किल काम नहीं है ।

श्री सिंहासन सिंह (गोरखपुर): बात क्या है, यह तो बतलाइये ।

लाला अचिन्त राम : इसको हाई कमांड के लोग जानते हैं यह बात उनके नोटिस में आ गई है । दो चार आदमी हैं जो इसको नहीं समझते हैं, यह कोई बड़ी बात नहीं है और गलती को सब जानते हैं ।

एक और बात की तरफ मैं आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं और वह रिफ्यूजीस के बारे में है । मैं हैरान था कि प्रेसिडेंट साहब ने इस के बारे में कोई जिक्र क्यों नहीं किया है । क्या यह मसला हल हो गया है । लेकिन प्रैसिडेंट साहब ने इसका जिक्र तक नहीं किया है । हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब रात दिन काम करते हैं और इतना काम जिसकी कोई हद ही नहीं है । चार पांच सौ आदमी हर रोज मिनिस्टर साहब को मिल रहे हैं लेकिन यहां उसका जिक्र तक नहीं है । इसका भी कोई न कोई हल निकल आएगा । जिस तरह से वहां पर ज्वाइंट इलैक्टोरेट हुआ है रिपब्लिकन पार्टी बनाई गई है उसी तरह से आपकी जो पालिसी है उस पर आप मसलसल काम करते जायें । जिस तरह से बेवन साहब को समझ आ गई है उसी तरह से सुहरावर्दी को भी समझ आ जाएगी । पाकिस्तान में जो लोग रहते हैं उनके तथा भारत में हिन्दुओं तथा मुसलमानों के इंटरेस्ट में यह बात है कि

वे वहां से हिन्दुओं को न आने दें। मेरी गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया से भी यही दरख्वास्त है कि जैसे आप पिछले दस सालों में कामयाबी हासिल करते आए हैं वैसे ही आप इस के अन्दर भी कामयाब होंगे और यहां से जो रिफ्यूजी लोग हैं वे वापिस चले जायेंगे।

पुनर्वास तथा अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्री (श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना): आप को यह कहना चाहिये था कि हिन्दुओं को ईस्टर्न पाकिस्तान से न आने दें।

लाला अचित राम: यही तो मैं कहता हूं कि माइग्रेशन न हो।

Mr. Chairman: There is an announcement. In addition to the amendments announced a little while ago, amendment No. 52 will also be allowed to be moved, if it is otherwise admissible.

Shri S. L. Saksena (Maharajganj): I request that my amendment No. 82 also may be allowed to be moved.

Shri Mohamed Imam: What is the significance of admitting all these amendments? Is it to give priority to those who have tabled amendments or is it only a formal business?

Mr. Chairman: The significance was made clear by the Speaker. There was a large number of amendments. The hon. Members send in large numbers of amendments in the first instance but ultimately they confine themselves to certain selected amendments which they want to move. It was pointed out to them that they might send in the numbers of those amendments which they were keen to move and discuss here. They have sent in certain amendments and the Speaker was pleased to announce this morning as well that some numbers were being received even after the fixed time and that he would not have otherwise allowed them but because it was the beginning of the session and a large number of Members were new to the House, he would give this latitude. That is why these amendments are announced even now. Otherwise, that time had expired.

Shri Mohamed Imam: Will those hon. Members who have tabled these amendments get any preference or should they be satisfied that their amendments have been admitted?

Mr. Chairman: No preference is given to any Member. It is not necessary that an hon. Member who has given that number and is keen to move his amendment should necessarily get an opportunity to speak. These amendments are before the House. They can be discussed by any Member who stands up. He knows that these are the amendments that are being discussed. There is an opportunity for every hon. Member to refer to them, to discuss them, to oppose them or support them and say whatever he wants to say about them. That is the only significance.

Shri S. L. Saksena: I want to move my amendment No. 82.

Mr. Chairman: He is an old Member and ought to have known the procedure. Anyway, if he wants to move it, I allow it to be moved subject to its admissibility.

Shri V. Raju (Visakhapatnam): I beg to move:—

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret—

(a) that a true and accurate picture of the growing financial crisis, consequent on the wasteful and unproductive plan expenditure undertaken by Government under its various plans has not been stated, and that no adequate steps have been indicated to safeguard the deteriorating financial situation in the country;

(b) that the extreme stringency in the food supply, a steep rise in prices of food-stuffs in the Eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh, the State of Bihar, the State of West

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Bengal, and also the rising prices of food-stuffs throughout the country has not been adequately stressed nor has any definite policy for redressing the said situation been indicated;

(c) that adequate censure to the Government of the United Kingdom for its proposed detonation of a test thermo-nuclear weapon has not been given by refraining from attendance at the forthcoming Commonwealth conference to be held in June of this year in England and no reference has been made of the intention to call upon the Governments of the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. to desist from undertaking all further tests of Atomic and Thermo-nuclear weapons;

(d) that the creation of unilingual Marathi-speaking State with the city of Bombay as its capital has not been indicated; and

(e) that no reference has been made to the unsatisfactory manner in which the General Elections have been conducted."'

Shri S. L. Saksena: I beg to move:—

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention of:—

(1) any proposal to include a comprehensive multipurpose river valley project to control the mighty rivers, the Ghaghra, the Tapti and the Gandak, which alone could save three crores of people from recurring drought and floods and the consequent famines in Eastern U.P., by providing irrigation during the periods of droughts, by stopping floods during the rainy season, and by providing huge quantities of electric power for electrifying the countryside, and setting up large-scale and cottage industries, which can bring employment and prosperity to the people of this area;

(2) any proposal to revise the order issued to sugar factories not to pay the minimum price of sugarcane, but to pay the price of sugarcane after May 8, 1957, on the basis of recovery, which will expose millions of sugarcane growers to a loss of crores of rupees and will also lead to their defrauding;

(3) any concrete and comprehensive plan to combat the rapidly developing famine conditions in Eastern U.P.; such as,

(a) issuing of imperative directions to start all the projects contained in the Second Five Year Plan for the development of these Eastern U.P. districts immediately during this year to enable people to get employment during the next six months so as to increase their purchasing power;

(b) starting of test works on an extensive scale in places where no Five Year Plan Projects are planned and guaranteeing a minimum wage of annas twelve to adult men and women and annas eight to children working at these test works;

(c) ensuring daily payments of wages to all men working in projects suggested in sub-para (a) above, and in test works in sub-para (b) above, and opening of government grain shops at each site where labourers are employed in projects on test works;

(d) directing sugar factories in Ghughli, Khadda and other sugar factories in these famine-stricken areas to make immediate payments of the arrears of sugar price to cane-growers for sugarcane supplied this year and in the previous years, and arrears of wages to sugar factory workers for four to six months which have not still been paid in several factories;

(e) ordering immediate refund of deductions made from the cane price of Annas Two per maund made several years ago as compulsory saving, the total amount of which runs into several crores;

(f) opening of cheap government grain shops in each Adalati Panchayat Centre, in these Eastern U.P. districts with sufficient stocks of coarse rice in these shops;

(g) ordering stern and exemplary punishment to be given to black marketeers and hoarders;

(h) ordering of gratuitous relief to the destitute, disabled and starving persons in every village; and

(4) any effective steps to be taken against the discrimination which is practised against the trade unions not belonging to the Indian National Trade Union Congress in the matter of registration under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926."'

Mr. Chairman: These amendments are also before the House.

Shri Bhagavati (Darrang): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are thankful to the President for focussing attention on two vital problems of the day; one is the food situation and the other is the financial difficulty that confronts us today.

With reference to the difficulty that confronts us more particularly in relation to the Plan he has rightly said it to be a matter of serious concern. It is gratifying to note that the Government is determined to go ahead, keep to the targets and implement the Plan fully in spite of all these difficulties.

We are faced with dearth of capital. We are running short of foreign exchange. The question is, how to solve this problem. In Russia they faced this problem when they first took up their development projects. They were also in need of money, but they solved the problem by creating mass enthusiasm. With whatever money they had they got hundred times more work done. We have to work in the same way and get work worth Rs. 2 crores with a capital investment of Rs. 1 crore. That is possible only if we can generate mass enthusiasm. Therefore, the President has rightly laid stress on public opinion which, he says, plays not only a large part but will might a conclusive part. Indeed, public opinion is a force and if we can utilise that force for the development works we can do much with our limited finance; otherwise we will always be complaining about want of money and the work will be half done.

What have we to do if we want to create mass enthusiasm? For achieving this, I think, the Government should first of all remove all administrative defects. We are all agreed that the Government has taken up a very good Plan. Nobody is saying that the Plan is not good. Nobody is saying that the foreign policy adopted by the Government of India is not sound. Nobody is saying that the principle of having a socialistic pattern of society for us is not good. But then, why is the mass enthusiasm that should have been created is not there? It may be due to some minor defects in the administrative machinery. We know that the Government set up some committees to look into this question and those committees have recommended reforms in the administrative machinery. We do not

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know as yet as to how the administrative machinery has been reorganised, but the defects are still there. That is a very vital thing which must be looked into. If one individual has to wait for months together to get a decision over a certain question, certainly he will get annoyed and irritated. If a trade union is to move for months together to get some grievances redressed, naturally they will adopt some other methods. These are matters of detail and yet are very vital for individuals. These can very easily be removed. So, if we want to create mass enthusiasm we have to reorganise the administrative machinery and see that these minor defects are removed.

Then again, for mass enthusiasm we have to show to the people that we are serious about removing economic inequalities. It is true that the Government has taken some very vital measures and those measures will have far-reaching effects. I am sure, if we go on like that the economic differences will disappear one day. But we have to go a bit faster. There is no denying the fact that the way in which we have been going ahead is not enough to enthuse the people. In the Plan we have laid down the principle that regional disparities must go and that individual differences in incomes should also disappear. But we have yet to implement that principle. We have yet to do much to remove regional and individual differences. There are differences in pay structure between one department and another. There is difference in pay scales given to State Government servants and Central Government servants. These differences should also go as far as is practicable. If these differences are maintained, I am afraid the mass enthusiasm that we want cannot be created. It is true that there is some risk for inflation if we increase the pay scales in the private sector as well as the public sector. But there is a greater risk if we do not eliminate these differences in the shortest possible time.

It is also necessary for all the political parties to think how to create mass enthusiasm. If it is thought that now the Congress party is in power and they will only fail if the popular enthusiasm is not created, I think that is a mistake. If the people are not educated and organised to do their utmost and make sacrifices to solve the national problems, the present psychology will remain and the people will always be depending on the Government alone to find money and for everything. That is not a very good thing. If the people think that money will descend from heaven or they will get money on everything which may be required from the Government and they have not to solve their own problems, I think no Government, to whatever party it may belong, will be able to solve all the problems with which it is confronted. That is the basic position. Our psychology is one of dependence or reliance on others. That must be removed.

We are very fond of analysing problems and we feel proud of it. We derive intellectual statisticians in doing that. But we rarely apply our mind towards finding out a solution of our problems, nor have we the courage or determination to solve our problems. That is I should like to say, a national defect. If that defect is not removed, no Government can solve all these problems. A united effort is, therefore, necessary for that purpose. All parties should do propaganda to that end so that next time if and when some other party comes to power they will not have to face the similar situation and the same sort of problems.

Next, the food problem has been much discussed here. This is certainly a very serious problem for us. This is not as much a problem of scarcity of foodstuffs as it is a problem of high prices. The prices of cereals went up so high, all of a sudden, and nobody could say why. The Government has proposed to institute a committee to investigate into the causes. But I should like to say that Government

should have a machinery to foresee the situation. That is what is necessary.

Some years back, tea prices fell abruptly, and there was a crisis in the tea industry. Nobody knew how the situation arose. After one year, when everybody was debating or investigating into the causes of the fall in the price of tea, all of a sudden, tea prices rose very high, and there was an unprecedented prosperity in the tea industry. But there was nobody in India—I have not known of anybody—who could foresee this situation and sound a note of warning. So, it appears that we in India do not have that sense of forethought in the Economic field. We do not know watch or judge the Economic forces that act and react against each other. We cannot foresee anything. After the event, we grow wise and analyse things and we form committees to go and investigate into all these things. That is not the way of doing things.

Now, the problem is there. We are setting up a committee which will investigate into all these matters, but that is something like a *post mortem*. We should have a machinery to watch and judge the Economic trends. We should have some experts who can foresee the market trends and say when a bad situation may arise so that such a situation could be tackled before a crisis sets in.

The food situation is bad because we are not yet surplus. It may be said that the Government have shown some increases in production. Somebody from the Opposition said that at election time, the Congress Party made capital out of it, but at the same time, that very same Member from the Opposition showed from the figures of the Government that continuously for some years Government have shown decreases in production These are all contradictions and confusions. But, as a matter of fact, it can be seen that if there is any surplus in any part of the country, that surplus is not more than five per cent or so. A surplus of five per cent is not surplus. We cannot depend on such surpluses. If the weather becomes bad in some years, that surplus disappears, and we are in difficulties. So, we must stress on more production. We are giving stress and it is all right. But we are not taking it up as a life and death question.

That only question that we face is whether we produce more or we perish. That should be the approach and that should be the test. I think we should give much more emphasis on this question. Moreover, the Government should procure enough cereals just after the harvest from the cultivators through the co-operative societies and release those stocks at the time when there is shortage in the market and when there is a tendency of rise in prices in the market. If enough rice or atta or other cereals are released to the market, when, in the first instance, there is a rise in price, a situtation like the present will not be there. If the Government does not come to the field all at once, then, there will be some grouse and it becomes difficult to tackle the problem. If, before some months, Government could release some rice to the market, I think, prices should not be rising very high. At the proper time, the Government, for some reason or other could not or did not release enough rice in the market, and so, the situation is bad. Now every individual might think that the food position is such that he should accumulate some maunds of rice or atta or any other cereal. In that way, people accumulate the stuff. But above all this, there may be some speculators who hoard. Though the hoarding of speculators is dangerous, individual hoarding is also not without danger. The accumulation by individuals occurs when they find that there is no certainty about the ability of the Government to cope with the situation. This tendency should not be allowed to grow. That is what I want to stress, and that can be done only if the Government releases the stock at the proper time, before the public can talk about it, before the public knows anything perceptibly about the rise in prices.

श्री वाजपेयी (बलरामपुर) : सभापति महोदय, इस से पूर्व कि मैं संशोधन क्रम संख्या ४०, ४१, ४२ और ४४ के सम्बन्ध में अपने विचार प्रकट करूं, मैं राष्ट्रपति को उन के पुनः निर्वाचन पर बधाई देता हूं। यह ठीक है कि कांग्रेस पार्टी ने राष्ट्रपति के निर्वाचन के सम्बन्ध में सभी प्रमुख दलों से विचार विनिमय करने की लोकतंत्रीय परम्परा का श्रीगणेश नहीं किया है, किन्तु एक बार राष्ट्रपति का चुनाव हो गया तो फिर वह किसी दल के या किसी दिशा के या किसी प्रान्त के नहीं हैं, वह सम्पूर्ण भारतीय गणराज्य के है। डा० राजेन्द्र प्रसाद को राष्ट्रपति पद पर निर्वाचित कर के हम ने स्वयं को ही गौरवान्वित किया है। सम्भव है, मेरे यह शब्द मेरे कतिपय मित्रों को पसन्द न हों.....

कुछ माननीय सदस्य : पसन्द है, पसन्द हैं।

श्री वाजपेयी : मैं विरोधी दल में खड़ा हूं लेकिन विरोध के लिए विरोध मेरा उद्देश्य नहीं हो सकता। इस सदन में भारतीय जनसंघ के सदस्यों की संख्या यद्यपि कम है, किन्तु हमारे सामने स्वर्गीय डा० श्यामाप्रसाद मुकर्जी का आदर्श है, और हम इस बात का प्रयत्न करेंगे कि उस से अनुप्राणित हो कर राष्ट्र निर्माण के महान् यज्ञ में अपना भी योगदान दें।

डा० मुकर्जी का स्मरण आते ही मुझे काश्मीर का स्मरण हो आता है, और काश्मीर का स्मरण आते ही मुझे श्रीनगर के उस सरकारी अस्पताल का स्मरण आता है जिस के कोने में पुलिस के पहरे में डा० मुकर्जी को देश की एकता के लिए अपना बलिदान देना पड़ा था। उन की मृत्यु को चार वर्ष हो गए, किन्तु उस पर जो रहस्य का पर्दा पड़ा था, वह अभी भी उठाया नहीं गया है। समय के सहलाने वाले हाथों ने घाव को भर दिया है, मगर दर्द अभी बाकी है। और जब कभी प्रधान मंत्री महोदय या सुरक्षा मंत्री महोदय काश्मीर समस्या के सम्बन्ध में आजकल वही बातें दुहराते हैं जिन्हें स्व० डा० श्यामाप्रसाद मुकर्जी चार साल पूर्व इस सदन में खड़े हो कर दुहराते थे, तो मुझे लगता है कि यदि प्रारम्भ से ही काश्मीर के प्रश्न पर यही नीति अपनायी गयी होती तो हम को डा० श्यामाप्रसाद मुकर्जी के महान जीवन की कीमत न चुकानी पड़ती।

16 hrs.

काश्मीर के बारे में सरकार की नीति दुर्बल और ढिलमिल रही है। हम सुरक्षा परिषद् में शिकायत लेकर गये, किन्तु हमने प्रारम्भ से ही पाकिस्तान को आक्रमणकारी घोषित कराने पर बल नहीं दिया। हमारी सेनायें जब विजय पर विजय प्राप्त करती जा रही थीं, और आक्रमणकारी अपने पैर सिर पर रख कर भाग रहा था, तो हमने उन विजय-वाहिनियों के पैरों में युद्धविराम रेखा की जंजीर डाल दी। युद्ध के मैदान में जो कुछ जीता गया था वह नई दिल्ली के प्रासाद में खो दिया गया। हम लड़ाई में जीत गये पर सन्धि में हार गये, और आज काश्मीर का एक तिहाई भाग आक्रमणकारी के कब्जे में है। वह कैसे मुक्त होगा, उसका क्या तरीका है, सरकार की क्या नीति है? वेदों में भगवान के स्वरूप का वर्णन करने के लिये "नेति नेति" का उपयोग किया गया है। परमेश्वर यह नहीं है, परमेश्वर वह नहीं है। कभी कभी मुझे लगता है कि काश्मीर और गोआ और पूर्वी बंगाल के हिन्दुओं की समस्या के बारे में भी सरकार की जो नीति है उसे "नेति नेति" के शब्दों में ही अच्छी तरह से प्रकट किया जा सकता है। क्या हम काश्मीर के एक तिहाई भू-भाग को सेना के बल पर मुक्त करायेंगे? नहीं नहीं। क्या हम उसे पाकिस्तान को तोहफे के रूप में पेश कर देंगे? नहीं नहीं। फिर हम क्या करेंगे? गोआ में क्या हम पुलिस कार्यवाही

करेंगे ? नहीं, नहीं । तो क्या फिर हम जनता को सत्याग्रह करने देंगे ? नहीं, नहीं । तो फिर क्या हम गोआ को अत्याचारी पुर्तगाल के हाथों में छोड़ेंगे ? नहीं, नहीं । यही बात पूर्वी बंगाल से हिन्दुओं के निष्क्रमण के बारे में है । हम पाकिस्तान पर दबाव डालने के लिये तैयार नहीं कि वह देश के बटवारे के समय जो समझौता हुआ था उस समझौते का पालन करे, और भारत में मुसलमानों के साथ जिस तरह का समता और सम्मान का व्यवहार किया जा रहा है पाकिस्तान में भी हिन्दुओं के साथ उसी तरह का व्यवहार करे । देश का विभाजन इसी आधार पर हुआ था और यदि पाकिस्तान उस आधार को स्वीकार नहीं करता तो हमें अन्य उपायों को अपनाने पर विचार करना चाहिये । लेकिन हम पाकिस्तान पर न तो दबाव डालने के लिये तैयार हैं, न निष्क्रमणार्थी हिन्दुओं को बसाने के लिये भूमि मांगने के लिये तैयार हैं । हमारी नीति क्या है । "नेति, नेति" । इसी से उसकी व्याख्या की जा सकती है ।

मैं काश्मीर की समस्या के सम्बन्ध में अपनी बात कह रहा था । एक तिहाई भू-भाग को मुक्त कराने के लिये हमारे प्रधान मंत्री वचनबद्ध हैं अर्थात् उसकी एक इंच भूमि भी आक्रमणकारी को न सौंपी जाये । कभी कभी ऐसी खबरें आती हैं कि इस तरह के प्रस्ताव रखे गये हैं कि युद्ध विराम रेखा पर पाकिस्तान से समझौता कर लिया जाये । मुझे खुशी है कि अब यह प्रस्ताव नहीं है, और मैं स्पष्ट कर देना चाहता हूं कि कोई भी ऐसा प्रस्ताव जिससे काश्मीर का विभाजन होगा भारत की जनता स्वीकार नहीं करेगी । काश्मीर पूरी तरह से भारत में मिल चुका है और यदि काश्मीर की आज कोई समस्या होगी तो यही समस्या है, कि पाकिस्तान उस भू-भाग को कब तक खाली करने जा रहा है जो उसके अवैध अधिकार में है । प्रधान मंत्री ने कुछ दिन पूर्व कहा था कि यदि दो बातें मान ली जायें, नम्बर १, पाकिस्तान आक्रमणकारी है, और नम्बर २ एक तिहाई भू-भाग भारत का है, तो हम पाकिस्तान से बात करने के लिये तैयार हैं । यदि ये दोनों बातें मान ली गयीं तो फिर बात करने के लिये क्या बचेगा, फिर बात करने के लिये कुछ भी बाकी नहीं रहेगा । अगर बात कोई हो सकती है तो यही कि पाकिस्तान से पूछा जाना चाहिये कि वह काश्मीर के एक तिहाई भू-भाग से अपना बिस्तर बोरिया बांधकर कब जाने की तैयारी कर रहा है । लेकिन ऐसे चिह्न नहीं दिखाई देते कि पाकिस्तान मान जायेगा । जो भू-भाग पाकिस्तान के पास है उसके मिलने की बात तो दूर रही, जो हिस्सा भारत में मिला है, आज उसी पर दांत लगे हैं । एक संकट खड़ा हो रहा है । पाकिस्तान युद्ध की तैयारियां कर कर रहा है । अमरीको हथियारों से सज्ज हो कर भारत की स्वतन्त्रता और सुरक्षा के लिये संकट का कारण बन रहा है । मैं युद्ध का हामी नहीं हूं । मैं भी शान्ति का समर्थक हूं, किन्तु मरघट की शान्ति नहीं जीवन की शान्ति का समर्थक हूं । काश्मीर के एक तिहाई भूभाग को पाकिस्तान को सौंपने से जो शान्ति होगी वह स्थायी शान्ति नहीं होगी और मैं समझता हूं कि शान्ति के आवरण में हमारी दुर्बलता की नीति आगे नहीं चलनी चाहिये । हमें धर्मराज युधिष्ठिर के उदाहरण से शिक्षा लेनी चाहिये । युद्ध कोई नहीं चाहता मगर दूसरे लोग हम पर युद्ध थोप सकते हैं । धर्मराज युद्ध नहीं चाहते थे, उन्होंने युद्ध को टालने का बड़ा प्रयत्न किया, अनुनय विनय की, शान्ति के सन्देश भेजे, बटवारा तक मान लिया, द्रोपदी का अपमान सहा, लेकिन युद्ध से उनको त्राण नहीं मिला । जो युद्ध से भागता है युद्ध उसके पीछे भागता है, और जो युद्ध के सम्मुख हिम्मत करके खड़ा हो जाता है, उसका सामना करने के लिये तैयार रहता है, वह अपने अधिकारों

[श्री वाजपेयी]

की भी रक्षा करता है और शान्ति की स्थापना करने में भी सफल होता है।

मुझे इस बात के लिये खेद है कि राष्ट्रपति के अभिभाषण में पाकिस्तान की जंगी तैयारियों से भारत की सुरक्षा और स्वतन्त्रता के लिये जो संकट पैदा हो गया है उसका कोई उल्लेख नहीं किया गया है। यह संकट वास्तविक है। पाकिस्तान ने अमरीकी सहायता लेकर और उस सहायता के सम्बन्ध में यह स्पष्ट करके कि यह सहायता भारत के विरुद्ध ली जायेगी, हमें एक विषम परिस्थिति में रख दिया है, और अमरीका ने भी पाकिस्तान को सहायता देकर भारत के विरुद्ध अमैत्रीपूर्ण कार्य किया है।

हम यह आशा करते थे कि प्रधान मंत्री की अमरीका यात्रा से अमरीका की नीति में कुछ परिवर्तन होगा। किन्तु बाद में जो चिह्न मिले हैं उनसे वह नीति अपरिवर्तित मालूम होती है और इस दृष्टि से प्रधान मंत्री की अमरीका यात्रा को सफल नहीं कहा जा सकता। लेकिन हम दूसरों को दोष दें इससे हमारा कल्याण नहीं होगा। हमें दोषारोपण नहीं आत्मलोचन करना चाहिये।

मेरे कतिपय मित्रों ने विदेशीनीति की सफलता के लिये सरकार को अनेक बधाइयां दी हैं। मुझे खेद है कि मैं उनमें शामिल नहीं हो सकता। हमारी विदेश नीति का उद्देश्य था कि हम दुनिया के किसी भी शक्ति गुट से नहीं मिलेंगे। और विश्वशान्ति के लिये प्रयत्न करेंगे और उस विदेश नीति का संचालन इतनी कुशलता से किया गया है कि युद्ध स्वयं हमारे दरवाजे पर आकर खड़ा हो गया है। और हमारे सामने शायद इसके सिवा कोई चारा नहीं है कि हम किसी शक्ति-गुट में सम्मिलित हो जायें। अगर इसी को विदेश-नीति की सफलता कहते हैं, तो फिर विफलता किसे कहते हैं, यह समझने में मैं असमर्थ हूं। फिर तो शायद "विफलता" को शब्द-कोश से ही निकाल देना पड़ेगा।

मैं काश्मीर की आन्तरिक स्थिति के सम्बन्ध में भी कुछ निवेदन करना चाहता हूं। भारत में शायद ही कोई ऐसा व्यक्ति होगा, जो बख्शी गुलाम मुहम्मद के हाथ मजबूत नहीं करना चाहता, लेकिन बख्शी साहब के हाथ मजबूत करने का यह तरीका नहीं है कि उन की ग़लतियों पर पर्दा डाल दिया जाय। एक बात हमें भली प्रकार समझ लेनी चाहिये कि काश्मीर और भारत की एकता किसी एक व्यक्ति पर—फिर वह व्यक्ति कितना ही बड़ा हो, या किसी दल पर—फिर वह दल कितना ही सबल हो, या किसी सरकार पर—वह सरकार चाहे कितनी ही लोकप्रिय हो, निर्भर नहीं छोड़ी जा सकती है। व्यक्ति आयेंगे और चले जायेंगे, पार्टियां बनेंगी और बिगड़ जायेंगी, सरकारें कायम होंगी और बदल जायेंगी। उन पर भारत और काश्मीर के सम्बन्ध निर्भर करने चाहियें। हम सब की सद्भावनायें बख्शी साहब के साथ हैं, लेकिन काश्मीर के भीतर जिस तरह से शासन चलाया जा रहा है, उससे वहां की जनता संतुष्ट नहीं है। लोकतन्त्र को अभी काश्मीर की भूमि में अपनी गहरी जड़ें जमाना है। हो सकता है कि मैं जो कुछ कह रहा हूं, उस का हमारा पड़ौसी पाकिस्तान नाजायज फ़ायदा उठाने का प्रयत्न करे, लेकिन .....

श्री ल० ना० मिश्र (सहरसा) : यह जानते हुये भी कह रहे हैं।

श्री वाजपेयी :..... सत्य को केवल इस लिये छिपाया जा सकता

कि कोई उस का नाजायज फ़ायदा उठा सकता है। काश्मीर के बारे में चुप रहने की नीति का एक दुष्परिणाम हम भोग चुके हैं और अगर हम उसकी पुनरावृत्ति नहीं होने देना चाहते, तो हमें सत्यका सामना करना होगा।

अभी अभी जम्मू-काश्मीर में चुनाव हुए थे। मैं चुनाव में जम्मू गया था। मुझे दुःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि उस चुनाव में अनियमितताये की गई। मैंने स्वयं अपनी आंखों से देखा कि वोटर्ज-लिस्ट ऐसी बनाई गई—वे उर्दू में बनाई गई थीं—कि उसके अनेक पृष्ठों को पढ़ा नहीं जा सकता था और मजा यह कि जिस का पढ़ना प्रजा परिषद् वालों के लिये असम्भव था, उसका पढ़ना नैशनल कांफ्रेंस वालों के लिये सम्भव हो गया। जिस दिन मतदान हुये, तो पोलिंग-स्टेशन कहां होंगे, इसकी पूर्व-सूचना नहीं थी और कहीं कहीं तो उसी दिन—पोलिंग के दिन ही—पोलिंग स्टेशन बदल दिये गये। जो मतों के बक्से थे—मत-पेटियां थीं, अनेक स्थानों पर उनको प्रीज़ाइडिंग आफ़िसर्ज के यहां रखा गया। प्रजा परिषद् के प्रधान, पंडित प्रेमनाथ डोगरा, ने चुनाव के सम्बन्ध में प्रीज़ाइडिंग आफ़िसर्ज के सामने जो आपत्तियां की थीं, मेरे पास उन के फ़ोटो-चित्र मौजूद हैं, जिन को मैं सदन के टेबल पर रखने के लिये तैयार हूं। प्रीज़ाइडिंग आफ़िसर ने स्वीकार किया है कि एक स्थान पर जब गणना हो रही थी, तो वहां एक बक्सा ही नहीं था।

सभापति महोदय : मैं माननीय सदस्य की वाक़फियत के लिये यह बताना चाहता हूं कि यहां पर स्पीकर साहब ने रूल बनाये हैं कि अगर किसी सदस्य के पास कोई ऐसी दस्तावेज, काग़ज, फ़ोटो वगैराह हो, जो कि वह यहां पेश करना चाहते हों, तो वह पहले दिखा लें, या कापी दे दें और फिर हाउस में उस का हवाला दें, ताकि पहले से यह देख लिया जाये कि ऐसी चीज की इजाज़त देनी है या नहीं। इस लिये माननीय सदस्य को चाहिये कि वह किसी मौके पर इस का जिक्र कर दें, जब कि यह पहले देख लिया जाये कि उस की इजाज़त दी जाय या नहीं।

श्री वाजपेयी : मुझे स्वीकार है।

अधिष्ठाता महोदय, मैं आप से निवेदन कर रहा था कि जम्मू-काश्मीर के चुनाव में प्रजा परिषद् ने सत्रह उम्मीदवार खड़े किये और वे सत्रह उम्मीदवार अठारह चुनाव-क्षेत्रों में खड़े थे। उन अठारह चुनाव-क्षेत्रों में से बारह चुनाव-क्षेत्रों में जो बैलट-बाक्स थे, वे टूटे हुये पाये गये। ये अनियमितायें ठीक नहीं हैं। मैं बक्शी साहब की कठिनाइयां समझता हूं, लेकिन काश्मीर को हमें लोकतन्त्र के मार्ग पर आगे बढ़ाना है और इसके लिये यह आवश्यक है कि वहां ऐसा वातावरण पैदा किया जाये, जिसमें सभी दल और भारत के प्रति निष्ठा रखने वाले सभी पक्ष स्वतंत्रता से कार्य कर सकें। मुझे विश्वास है कि इस दृष्टि से काश्मीर सरकार की नीति में जो अपेक्षित परिवर्तन है, वे शीघ्र ही दिखाई देंगे। प्रजा परिषद् तो नैशनल कांफ्रेंस के साथ सहयोग करना चाहती है, लेकिन सहयोग एकतरफ़ा नहीं हो सकता —उस के लिये उपयुक्त वातारण होना चाहिये।

मैं ने अभी इस बात का उल्लेख किया है कि पाकिस्तान जंगी तैयारियां कर रहा है। भारत की स्वाधीनता और भारत के विभाजन के दस वर्ष बाद ही हमारे सामने बाहरी आक्रमण और आन्तरिक विघटन का खतरा खड़ा हो गया है। युद्ध हमारा दरवाजा खटखटा रहा है। यदि छोटा सा इसरायल ब्रिटेन और फ्रांस के इशारे पर मिस्र पर आक्रमण कर सकता है, तो पाकिस्तानी नेता भी, जो दूसरों के इशारे पर चलते हैं और अपनी भूखी नंगी जनता की आजादी को वाशिंगटन के बाजारों में नीलाम

[श्री वाजपेयी]

पर चढ़ाने के लिये तैयार हैं, भारत से टकराने का दुस्साहस कर सकते हैं। मैं आतंक पैदा नहीं करना चाहता, लेकिन सतर्क रहना चाहिये। यह ठीक है कि हम राष्ट्र-निर्माण के महान यज्ञ में लगे हैं, लेकिन यज्ञ में विघ्न भी पड़ते हैं और यज्ञ की रक्षा के लिये शस्त्र-सज्जित सेना, जागरूक जनता और अपने कर्त्तव्य के प्रति निष्ठावान् शासन होना चाहिये।

मैं एक बात और कहूंगा। राष्ट्रपति ने अपने अभिभाषण में इस बात को स्वीकार किया है कि राज्यों के पुनर्गठन के कारण पंचवर्षीय योजना की प्रगति कुछ मन्द हो गई है। क्या इस का विचार पहले नहीं किया जा सकता था? क्या प्रान्तों का पुनर्गठन करना इस समय आवश्यक था? और यदि किया गया, तो उसे ठीक ढंग से क्यों नहीं किया गया? मुझे तो ऐसा लगता है कि यह पुनर्गठन नहीं किया गया है, विघटन किया गया है। महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात की जनता की उपयुक्त मांगों को नहीं माना गया है। मैं उत्तर प्रदेश से आता हूं, मैं मध्य प्रदेश का निवासी हूं, किन्तु मैं महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात में घूमा हूं और मैं जानता हूं कि वहां की जनता के मन में अपने अपने पृथक प्रान्त के लिये कितनी प्रबल भावनायें हैं। उनकी उपेक्षा नहीं की जा सकती है, उनको दबाया नहीं जा सकता है। कल यहां जो धमकियां दी गई, मैं उन को ठीक नहीं समझता। उनसे अपनी बात मनवाई नहीं जा सकती। वह सही तरीका नहीं है, लेकिन मैं ग़ैर-महाराष्ट्रीय सदस्यों से—और विशेषकर उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार के सदस्यों से, जिन्होंने द्विभाषी बम्बई प्रदेश के निर्माण में पहल की और जिस भावना से प्रेरित हो कर उन्होंने पहल की, उस की मैं कद्र करता हूं—निवेदन करूंगा कि उनकी भावना उच्च थी, लेकिन आज की परिस्थितियों का भी विचार होना चाहिये। विघटनकारी शक्तियां इस परिस्थिति का लाभ उठायेंगी और जनता को उभाड़ेंगी। आप चाहते हैं एकता पैदा करना, लेकिन उस का तरीका आप ने ऐसा अपनाया है, जिससे विघटन बढ़ेगा। अभी परिस्थिति को सुधारा जा सकता है। यह सदन फिर से विचार कर सकता है और मैं इस बात का विश्वास करूंगा कि जो परिस्थिति है, उस में संयुक्त महाराष्ट्र और महागुजरात के निर्माण के सम्बन्ध में पुनर्विचार होना चाहिये।

मेरे एक मित्र ने पंजाब की समस्या का उल्लेख किया है। मैं इससे सहमत नहीं हूं कि पंजाब की समस्या का स्थायी हल खोज लिया गया है। जो हल निकाला गया है, उस ने परिस्थिति को और भी उलझा दिया है। भाषा की समस्या ठीक ढंग से हल नहीं की गई है और विघटन के बीज बो दिये गये हैं।

Shrimati Renuka Ray (Malda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the motion of thanks to the President. Brief and cogent the Address has unerringly pointed out the main economic difficulties and the ways and means through which the Government and the people of this country are trying to overcome them. It has mentioned the achievements that have been made as well as the difficulties that still remain. The underlying note shows that there is no complacency in the Address. There is no feeling of behavious like an ostrich to hide from the problems that confront us. Nevertheless, it is not a counsel of despair and frustration as some gloomy prophets would like it to be.

Sir, living as we do in close proximity to the times it is difficult for us in this generation to judge and assess all the achievements that have been made. It is but natural that we look

at things that have not been done as yet and not towards those things that have been accomplished. But I daresay that the future will recognise that a great deal has been done in the brief span of only a decade.

Sir, the face of rural India is changing, changing far more rapidly than we realise. To my mind the psychological change that is coming over the people of the country is the most important. The people under foreign domination had lost confidence in their own powers. We had begun to believe that we could not do things. Today we have regained that confidence. We are beginning to realise that it is on our inherent ability that we shall have to rely and that we shall be able to overcome our problems through these means.

The President's Address has rightly focussed attention on the fact that the Central and State budgets are deficit and that our foreign exchanges are being strained. At the same time it is the endeavour of the Government to keep to the targets of the Second Plan. Sir, in an admittedly backward country which has to develop in many ways it is natural and absolutely necessary to have deficit financing. But deficit financing has its concomitant evils and the inflationary spiral goes up and up, if not properly checked. It is obviously the endeavour of the Government to keep a balance; to go in for deficit financing when necessary and at the same time be careful to see that we do not expect greater sacrifice of the present to build up the future.

Mr. Chairman, there is one factor which I would like to bring to the notice of Government which I think is of equal importance. In our zeal to husband our resources and to utilise them to the best of our ability, let us not do something which may imperil our efforts. Too much scrutiny, too much red tape and too many difficulties put in the way of those who are trying to implement the actual work does not make for success. I am speaking not in the air. I speak in the light of experience and I would like to say that it is essential for the success of the Second Plan to see that the authority that implements the Plan, a scheme or a project, whether it be a state Government, whether it be a project implementing committee, whether it be a district official or a local authority or a community project authority down in the district, must have sufficient resources both in money and in materials placed at its disposal in a co-ordinated manner in time and be able to make such alterations that local needs demand. If this is not done, then, as we have seen, many months of the financial year are spent in getting sanctions and the unfortunate person on whom devolves ultimate responsibility to implement the work gets the money at the eleventh hour and in the last few months of the year there is feverish activity. Naturally this is not very conducive to efficiency; nor is it the best way of carrying out our work. It leads also to unspent balances which are very injurious at a time when our money position is so very tight. Therefore, it is my earnest appeal to the Treasury Benches to avoid this situation, for I know that if we are anxious they cannot be less anxious than us. In regard to the allocations made by the Planning Commission to the different States, which will be going through the administrative Ministries in the Centre they should be made in such a manner that in the two—the administrative and Finance Departments that of the Centre of the State do not have too irritant checks at every stage. It is true that in a democratic procedure we have to have certain checks. These are essential. But such checks should not become irritants. It often happens that the authorities which are to bring about enthusiasm to the people in an area have to wait and wait for months while the people lose their enthusiasm, frustration sets in and that imperils our Plan.

The President's Address has rightly said that in the first year of the Plan we have not been able to go ahead and the reason given is the States re-

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organisation. That certainly is a reason. But it is essentially for us now when we what to go ahead more rapidly to see to it, in fact, to have some investigation made into the administrative procedure not only by the Government at the Centre and the States but also with the help of actual implementing authority. Their suggestions also should be taken into consideration in this matter. I think if this is done we shall be able to go forward more easily. It may be that some expenditure may have to be curtailed; I hope we do not have to curtail any expenditure. But even if this is done, let the money and the resources like cement, etc., be given in a planned, co-ordinated manner to the man who is actually implementing the Plan so that delays are eliminated.

Yesterday I heard an hon. Member saying that sanction was given for the construction of some tube wells, but they are not built. I was wondering whether it was the authority that had to build the tube well which was responsible, or whether perhaps the cement had not come, or perhaps the sanctioned money had not actually arrived. These are matters which need absolute vigilance today because if the Centre is coming to the assistance of the States, as the Planning Commission has laid down, and allocations are to be made for nation building services, let us see that we do not allow these to spoil our effort by over jealousness.

Sir, I have not got much time at my disposal, but there is one point which I want to bring to your attention. I feel that in the President's Address when mention was made of one or two areas where natural calamities have affected the food position, it might have added other areas such as West Bengal or Bombay where an equally difficult position has come about. In any way I am glad that the Food Minister has made a statement in the House and I entirely agree with him that it is not a proper thing to encourage hoarding, especially by the speculator or even the small hoarder by creating panic. There is no reason for any panic in this country, but there is reason to be cautious. The rainy season is approaching and during that period there are many areas in this country which are inaccessible and food reserves have to be built up in those areas, at once I should like to tell Members of this House that not very long ago I was down in northern Bengal in Malda and Murshidabad districts where the wheat crop stood high in the grounds and the people had expected a very good yield. But unfortunately the pathetic thing was that this wheat crop gave no yield at all because of rust and other diseases. The economy of this area, that is Malda and Murshidabad, is greatly dependent on the mango crop, and to this year it is 20 per cent. of the normal.

Mr. Chairman: Does the hon. Member intend to conclude within a minute or two, or would she like to have five minutes tomorrow?

Shrimati Renuka Ray: I would like to have five minutes either tomorrow or I can finish now itself within five minutes.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): It does not matter. She can take five minutes and finish.

Mr. Chairman: Just as the House desires.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: These are the matters to which I wanted to refer. I do not want to go into greater details. But with regard to West Bengal in particular, I hope that the request of the Government of West Bengal for an adequate amount of foodgrains, both wheat and rice, will be met. I understand that the Food Minister is well apprised of the situation and that he is looking into it. I hope that in this way the price of rice will be pegged, because it is essential that this rising price of rice should be kept under check. For instance, in Darjeeling the price of

coarse rice has risen to Rs. 27 and it is beyond the purchasing power of the people. I would suggest that rice should be subsidised and sold at the rate of Rs. 17-8-0. We must remember that last year there were unprecedented floods in West Bengal, and this has greatly affected the purchasing power of the people.

I have spoken about West Bengal because I have greater knowledge of that area. But the same thing applies to any other area where such conditions prevail.

There were other things about which I should have liked to speak, but I shall take some other opportunity. There is, however one point I will make, because it arises out of the President's Address. I will not go into any detail over international affairs, but there is one thing that strikes us here very much. Is there an attempt going on to corner India because she does not join military pacts? Is there any attempt to force her because she takes an objective stand on all issues, based on equity and justice? I wonder that those who speak so glibly about Kashmir, a settled fact, where the people of the area have decided and it is integrated in India, never have time to ponder that over a decade, day after day, month after month, year after year, refugees come and it is a one-way traffic from East Pakistan into eastern India. How is it that the world outside, all those countries which are so anxious about an area where admittedly in the last ten years there has been a great deal of improvement, why do they not think about this fact? I would suggest to them that they speak a great deal about free countries of the world; India is a country that is an admittedly backward country, trying against the heaviest odds to go ahead through the means of democracy. It is a great experiment which the world watches, which Asia and Africa watch. If due to external forces, if due to outside pressure which India cannot withstand, this experiment does not succeed, then those who will be responsible for that should take warning now. In any case India which is guided by the principles that have been laid down by the Father of the Nation does not intend to give them up for any consideration; and with faith in our hearts we shall go ahead in spite of every difficulty that we face. With these words I support the motion of thanks to the President for his Address.

Mr. Chairman: I can very well understand the anxiety of a large number of hon. Members wishing to speak, and particularly in the beginning. But I would appeal to the hon. Members also to appreciate the difficulties of the Chair. It is not possible to accommodate all of them, and some of the hon. Members must feel disappointed, though the Chair would try to accommodate as many Members as possible tomorrow. But those who do not get an opportunity in this discussion on the President's Address shall have ample opportunity during the Budget debates and I assure them that their names would be considered in preference to others who have now spoken. And even this disappointment might be a good experience for beginners, because that will give them some tolerance.

The House now stands adjourned till five o'clock to listen to the budget proposals of the year.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till seventeen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled on Seventeen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

PRESENTATION OF GENERAL BUDGET, 1957-58.

Mr. Speaker: The Finance Minister.

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Mr. Speaker, Sir. In March last I presented to the predecessor of this House an interim budget for the year 1957-58 in order to obtain a vote on account to meet Government's expenditure until this House assembled. The expendi-

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ture estimates I am presenting today are more or less the same as the ones I presented in March. They have, however, been reclassified in terms of the reorganised Ministries, and there are a few new items to which I shall refer in the course of my speech.

A White Paper reviewing the major economic developments in the economy during 1956 and outlining the perspective against which policies for the current year have to be formulated was circulated along with the Budget papers in March last. Copies of that White Paper are being made available to Hon. Members. The broad analysis of economic trends given in the White Paper needs little modification in the light of subsequent data. I shall, however, review briefly the latest available economic indicators and attempt an assessment of emergent and prospective trends.

Before I do so, I would like to say that the economic classification of the budget as it is now being presented will be issued in 2 or 3 days time. We attempted this reclassification for the first time in March last, and we propose to continue the practice. But, the document will have to be released after a time interval, which would be short, needed for working into the tables the proposals I am now placing before the House today.

The White Paper of March last gave an analysis of the factors responsible for the upward pressure on prices during 1956. In recent months, the index of wholesale prices has remained stable more or less round about 420. For the week ending April, 27, it was 423.5, which is a rise of 8.5 per cent over the level a year ago. Rice prices are now at 633 or thereabout and wheat prices round about 580, they are 14·1 per cent. and 16·4 per cent. respectively above the level that obtained a year ago. Prices of industrial raw materials have risen by 9 per cent during the year, of semi-manufactures by 5·3 per cent and of manufactures by 2.4 per cent. The rising price trend is due in part to the insufficiency of food production in relation to the demand, and in part it is attributable to certain external factors. There are, however, clear signs of demands in the economy tending to outstrip the supplies available. If unchecked, these trends cannot but get reflected in further increases in the cost of living and in the cost structure of industries.

The latest available estimates of agricultural production about which an indication was given by my hon. colleague, the Food & Agriculture Minister, that the fall in production in 1955-56 was somewhat smaller than what was estimated earlier. The output of rice is now estimated at 26.8 million tons as compared to the earlier estimates of 25·5 million tons, and the estimate for the total foodgrains output for the year has now been revised upwards from 63.4 million tons to 64.8 million tons. Even so, the year shows a shortfall of some 4 million tons as compared to 1953-54 and some 2 million tons as compared to 1954-55. The decline in foodgrains output in 1955-56 as indicated by my hon. colleague yesterday, was mainly in respect of coarse grains, while the output of rice was higher and that of wheat only slightly lower than in the previous year.

The output of commercial crops shows no significant charge relatively to the estimates given in the White Paper issued in March. The overall index of agricultural production, taking food crops and commercial crops together, would still show a fall of about 2 per cent in 1955-56 as compared to 1954-55.

The estimates of the likely level of agricultural production in 1956-57 indicate that the outturn should, on the whole, be somewhat better than the previous year's. The production of rice is expected to be around 28 millions tons, that is, about 1.2 million tons better than in 1955-56, and of wheat about 8.6 million tons as compared to 8.3 million tons in 1955-56. The output of coarse grains and pulses is estimated at about the same level

as in 1955-56. Among commercial crops, latest reports indicate that the production of cotton has increased by 20 per cent, groundnut by 6 per cent and sugarcane by about 17 per cent. Nevertheless, reports on the food situation again as was indicated by my colleague yesterday in recent weeks indicate very difficult conditions in certain States. I would not like to minimise the gravity of the situation as it obtains in these pockets. But statistically, it does seem that if at all there is an overall shortage, it is of a marginal character. With the arrangements that have been made for the import of foodgrains from abroad to meet our normal needs and with the availability of additional supplies under the P. L. 480 agreement, it should be possible to ensure adequate supplies to enable us at least to hold the price line. I would, however, concede that the situation will need careful watching and the apparatus necessary to deal with the situation as it develops from time to time would have to be kept in readiness.

Industrial production has continued to rise at an annual rate of about 6 per cent, the newer industries, both in the capital goods and in the consumer goods sector advancing more rapidly than the older ones. The pace at which industrial development has been proceeding is I believe encouraging. In that process, it generates heavy demands on our foreign exchange resources for import of capital goods as well as raw materials. The immediate difficulties in respect of foreign exchange notwithstanding, it would be reasonable to hope that the rate of progress in the industrial sector will be maintained.

The overall position that emerges from the review of production trends so far is that the supply of domestic goods and services has, on the whole, shown only a modest improvement over the previous year, and that the rise in prices during the year reflects the pressure of a shortage in supplies relatively to the strength of the expansionary factors in the economy generated by the rising levels of both public and private investment.

Considered by itself, the increase in money supply over the last 12 months or so is not very large. Between the 13th April 1956 and the 12th April this year, it increased by about Rs. 133 crores. This increase, it must however be remembered, occurred in spite of the large balance of payments deficit which resulted in a precipitous fall in the Reserve Bank's foreign exchange holdings. The increase in rupee securities held by the Reserve Bank works out at Rs. 273 crores over the past twelve months. This is, clearly an expansionary factor which reflects, in the main, the growing borrowings of Government from the Reserve Bank; in part, it arises from the pressure on commercial banks to replenish their resources by selling securities. Scheduled bank lending to the private sector was up by Rs. 147 crores during the year. The liquidity of the banks has in the process been strained and money rates have hardened. Stringency in the money market has continued. This stringency is to my mind a usual accompaniment of a phase of economic boom when investment tends to outturn savings; it is not an indication of an insufficiency of the monetary media. An abatement of monetary stringency has at this stage to be sought not through a general increase in the supply of credit but through measures to prevent an excessive diversion of credit to less essential uses and through the creation of special institutions or facilities for supplying selectively the type of credit needed for priority developments.

The major problem before the country undoubtedly is the large and continuing strain on foreign exchange resources. Since the beginning of the fiscal year, 1956-57 there has been a persistent pressure on the balance of payments resulting in a draft on the country's foreign exchange resources of nearly Rs. 300 crores. Since, during this period, a credit of Rs. 60.7 crores was obtained from the International

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Monetary Fund, the fall in the Reserve Bank's holdings amounted to about Rs. 240 crores.

The balance of payments for the first quarter of 1956-57 showed a current account deficit of Rs. 44.5 crores; the deficit widened to Rs. 81.4 crores in the second quarter. For the third quarter for which data are now available, there was a further increase in the deficit which worked out at Rs. 84·8 crores. Excluding 'official donations' which enter into the current account, the deficits for the three quarters were Rs. 54.1 crores, Rs. 89·9 crores and Rs. 92·4 crores. Since January, 1957, further foreign exchange resources of the order of Rs. 86 crores have been used up. The foreign assets of the Reserve Bank now stand at a little below Rs. 500 crores. Despite the measures already taken to restrict imports, there is no indication yet of an abatement in the rate of drawals which now averages Rs. 5 to 6 crores a week. This embarrassing 'lag' notwithstanding, the steps we have already taken and necessary will, I believe begin to produce their effect before long.

On a rough estimate, imports for the year, 1956-57 will aggregate to over Rs. 1000 crores, while exports will be around Rs. 650 crores. The bulk of the additional imports received during the year is for developmental purposes and should help strengthen the economy in due course. It is, however, obvious that foreign exchange expenditure has to be limited to the availability of resources, and the present imbalance in the country's external account rectified. The various corrective measures adopted during the year were reviewed in the March White Paper; further action in the same direction which is necessary will, as I have just said, be taken.

There is it will be realised hardly any cushion left in our foreign exchange resources to prevent a further significant draft on them. The level of imports hereafter has necessarily to be regulated in the light of our current earnings and the inflow of supplemental resources we can secure from abroad and should be closely related to essential requirements of the high priority projects in the Plan. The import policy for the second half of 1957-58 is now in the process of being formulated with the objective of securing a further sizeable saving on imports. The large volume of imports of capital goods and of developmental commodities that has already come in should to my mind make it possible for investment within the economy to go forward for a time at any rate at a satisfactory rate and care will be taken to allow such imports as are necessary for us to get the benefit of whatever equipment has been obtained and for maintaining production at a reasonable level. It would, however, be idle to pretend that all hardship can be avoided. The exigencies of the situation require that a balance on external account must be restored as early as possible, and the necessary price has therefore to be paid.

An improvement in the balance of payments situation is, I should add, largely conditional upon the adoption of domestic policies designed to hold inflationary pressures in check. An excess of purchasing power within the economy raises internal prices; it also reduces the availability of supplies for export and pushes up the demand for imports. It is, therefore, necessary to orient fiscal and monetary policies to the keeping down of domestic consumption and to the diversion of a part of the domestic output to export markets. I may mention here that the exports of cotton textiles in the first three months of 1957 have reached a total of 260 million yards and if statistics can give us any satisfaction this gives us an annual rate of about 1000 million yards. The increase in excise duty on cloth in September last has it seems inspite of our doubts to the contrary succeeded in one of its objectives without raising prices of cloth in the process. We should constantly be on the watch for similar opportunities to enlarge our foreign exchange earnings.

After this broad review of the latest economic trends, I should now like to give an account of the budget estimates for 1957-58.

In the estimates presented in March 1957, revenue was taken at Rs. 636.22 crores and expenditure at Rs. 663.09 crores, leaving a deficit, on revenue account, of Rs. 26.87 crores. As a result of certain modifications which have since been found necessary, revenue deficit, on the basis of existing taxation, is now estimated to increase by Rs. 6.25 crores. This is as a result of a reduction of Rs. 1.25 crores in the net contribution of the Posts and Telegraphs Department to General Revenues and an increase in expenditure of Rs. 5 crores.

The reduction in the Posts and Telegraphs contribution is due to an additional provision of Rs. 1.25 crores for the Renewals Reserve Fund. A broad examination has revealed that the provision made in recent years for depreciation and replacement of assets in this sector has been very inadequate and that at least 2.75 per cent of the capital at charge should be provided as a depreciation reserve. Provision made this year amounts to Rs. 1.25 crores which represents only 1.25 per cent on the capital at charge of about Rs. 100 crores. Pending a detailed examination, the provision is now being doubled for the current year.

The increase in expenditure is accounted for by three items. The first is a provision of Rs. 3.12 crores for grants to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission for development of Ambar Charkha. A programme for the introduction of 75,000 Ambar Charkhas was started last year. The results of this programme have been reviewed recently and it has been decided to continue and expand it further during 1957-58. For the present, the expanded programme provides for the introduction of an additional 90,000 Ambar Charkhas, the total cost of this programme being during the current year, Rs. 10.09 crores of which Rs. 3.12 crores will be by way of grants and the balance by way of loans to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

The second item is a grant of Rs. 1.55 crores to the Government of Assam towards the extra expenditure which they have had to incur recently for the maintenance of law and order as a result of the disturbances in certain border areas. The State Government have had to incur large expenditure on providing relief to the affected population, borrowing police forces from other States and constructing roads and bridges to facilitate communications. This abnormal expenditure has caused a great strain on the State's resources and the Government of India have agreed to meet 50 per cent of the cost of relief measures and of roads and bridges and the entire expenditure on the police forces borrowed from other States.

The last item is a provision of Rs. 33 lakhs for incidental expenditure on transport etc., in connection with the return of Land-Lease silver to the Government of U.S.A. During the last War, the U.S. Government leased 226 million fine ounces of silver to the then Government of India to be returned five years after the termination of the emergency. The liability for the return of this silver was divided between India and Pakistan, India's share being approximately 172 million fine ounces. It has now been agreed that the Government of India would make immediate arrangement for the shipment of 50 million fine ounces of silver and that the balance of 122 million fine ounces should be made available in the form of quarternary alloy coins. The cost of shipment of fine silver would be borne by the Government of India while the alloy silver would be delivered in India and the U.S. Government would meet all cost of handling, transport and refining and also retain the metals recovered in the refining process. On balance, the transaction seems to accrue to the advantage of the Indian Government.

On the capital account, the estimates presented in March last provided for an outgo of Rs. 772.21 crores for capital expenditure and loans to State Government and others. As stated ear-

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lier an addition of Rs. 6·97 crores is now required for loans to Khadi and Village Industries Commission for the Ambar Charkha programme.

A provision of Rs. 15 crores is being made for loans to the Refinance Corporation which is proposed to be constituted shortly. The Agricultural Commodities Agreement between the Government of India and U.S.A. under American Public Law 480 provided, among other things, that a sum of about Rs. 26 crores would be reserved for re-lending to private enterprise in India through established banking facilities. As a result of subsequent discussions with the U.S.A. authorities a scheme has been evolved for channelling these funds through a Refinance Corporation, which will provide re-lending facilities against loans given by Banks in India. The Corporation is proposed to be constituted as a joint stock company under the Companies Act, 1956, initially with an ordinary share capital of Rs. 12·5 crores to be subscribed by the Reserve Bank of India, the State Bank of India, the Life Insurance Corporation of India and about 14 from amongst the larger scheduled banks in India. It is anticipated that the Corporation will require loans from the Government of India out of the earmarked funds relating to the P. L. 480 Agreement, to the extent of about Rs. 15 crores during the current financial year.

Another provision of Rs. 50 lakhs is being made for investment in the share capital of the Export Risk Insurance Corporation. The Corporation will be registered under the Indian Companies Act as a Private Limited Company with an authorised capital of Rs. 2.5 crores and paid-up capital of Rs. 50 lakhs. The maximum risks which the Corporation should carry will be 10 times the subscribed capital and the reserves built by it. In setting up the Corporation to introduce a scheme of export risk insurance in India, the Government of India have been actuated by the desire to place the Indian exporter on even terms with exporters of other countries, who are aided by similar schemes in their countries.

These three items on Capital account will aggregate Rs. 22.47 crores. Against this Capital receipts are now expected to improve by Rs. 25.83 crores. Of this increase, Rs. 9.56 crores represent the additional contribution to the Railway Development Fund which has been announced in the Railway Budget presented on the 14th May 1957 by my hon. colleague and Rs. 1.27 crores the additional contribution (inclusive of interest) to the Posts and Telegraphs Renewals Reserve Fund mentioned earlier. The balance of Rs. 15 crores is on account of assistance under the Agricultural Commodities Agreement with the U. S. A. which is now estimated at Rs. 65 crores against the credit of Rs. 50 crores assumed earlier, the total foreign aid thus amounting to Rs. 150 crores. In the result, there will be a net receipt of Rs. 3·36 crores on Capital account.

Taking the Revenue and Capital accounts together, the overall deficit of Rs. 365 crores estimated earlier will now increase by Rs. 2·89 crores aggregating to Rs. 367·89 crores.

The review of economic conditions and of the financial position as it emerges for the budget year shows clearly that while more resources are required for meeting the increasing demands of the investment programme, both public and private, the economy is not generating the necessary savings. Budgetary deficits, rapid expansion of bank credit, continued pressure on prices and a large balance of payments deficit—all these taken together—connote a deficiency of voluntary savings relatively to the size of the investments now being undertaken further, the emerging pressures have to be judged in relation to the requirements over the entire Plan period. Expenditure on the Plan has inevitably to be stepped up year by year, and the strain on the country's resources will grow in the period that must elapse

before the investments being made come to fruition. These demands on the economy can be met successfully only by sustained effort at increasing productivity and mobilising savings on a national scale. Simultaneously, it is essential that the pace of investment, both in the public and private sectors, is kept in reasonable relationship to the progress made in enlarging domestic savings and securing an inflow of external finance adequate to meet the foreign exchange requirements of the programmes in hand. This is the setting against which the policies and proposals that I propose to place before the House have to be judged.

The first item of policy I wish to consider is credit policy. I referred earlier to the expansion of bank credit that has taken place over the last twelve months and the consequent strain this has imposed on the liquidity of the banking system. In the last few years the tempo of investment activity in the private sector has been steadily rising, and more recently there is evidence of a marked quickening of this tempo. This has entailed larger demands on the banking system by trade and industry. The credit advanced by scheduled banks rose during the year 1956 by Rs. 153 crores to a record level of Rs. 788 crores, and in the first four months of this year, it has risen by another Rs. 119 crores. The deposit resources of banks have not gone up to a corresponding extent. As a result, there has been an acute stringency of funds in the money market and an appreciable increase in the call money rate and the lending and deposit rates of banks. Considering the overall trends in the economy, the remedy for a situation of this nature is not an outright increase in the supply of money and credit to the extent of the demand but a cautious and orderly expansion to meet genuine needs, accompanied by measures to prevent an excessive diversion of credit to less essential uses.

Against this background the Reserve Bank has been pursuing a policy designed to moderate the inflationary possibilities of a large credit increase through general and selective credit restraint—without at the same time denying credit to essential lines of activity. This policy of judicious restraint took the form of an increase in the bank's lending rates; the rate on advances under the bill market scheme was raised in two stages in March and November, 1956 from 3 to 3-1/2 per cent and in February this year by an enhancement of the stamp duty on usance bills which increased the effective rate of borrowing by banks to 4 per cent. Simultaneously, the bank increased its rate on advances against Government securities to 4 per cent. In addition, as it appeared that speculative trading, particularly in essential commodities in short supplies like foodgrains, absorbed some portion of bank credit, the Reserve Bank issued directives with a view to regulating advances against such commodities.

These measures have generally been effective. In the busy season now coming to a close credit extended has been of a somewhat smaller order than in the last busy season. The technique of selective control has had some effect on the level of bank credit; it has restrained the rise in prices in the sectors to which it was directed and has helped in channelling resources to more desirable outlets. It must be emphasised however that the Reserve Bank's policy has not been one of mere restriction of overall credit; in fact, it has been one of ensuring controlled expansion—a process which has been helped in particular by the liberalisation of the bank's credit facilities under the bill market scheme and also through its open market policy. The expanded facilities under bill market scheme could be availed of by banks on a larger scale by a greater accretion to their deposit resources. Some progress has been achieved in this respect, but, I feel that a greater effort on the part of the banks to attract resources especially by reaching classes which have not yet developed the banking habit is called for.

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In view of the increasing tempo of developmental activity programmes for the current year and in the succeeding years, I am convinced that credit policy should continue to be directed towards moderating the pressure of demand for funds without at the same time hampering essential lines of productive activity. It is in this context that the Reserve Bank has been continuously keeping its bank rate under review. Earlier today, the bank announced an increase in the bank rate from 3-1|2 to 4 per cent. As the effective lending rate of the Reserve Bank to scheduled banks has been 4 per cent for some months now and the markets have had sufficient time to adjust themselves to this rate, this seems an opportune moment for rationalising the lending rate structure of the Reserve Bank by raising the bank rate itself. There are other considerations also which indicate the desirability of making this adjustment in the bank rate at this stage. I am not unaware of the limitations of the bank rate as an effective weapon in a developing economy. Nevertheless, an increase in the bank rate should assist the Reserve Bank in its task of moderating the pressure of demand for credit. While the Bank's latest decision might appear to be only a formal recognition of a *de facto* situation, it is an action in keeping with the analysis of the economic situation I have presented today, before the House to curb the inflationary potential in the economy. In view of the increase in the bank rate, there is no longer the need to keep the stamp duty on usance bills at existing levels, and I am therefore reducing it with immediate effect to 50 Naya Paisa per Rs. 1,000/- for three months.

I may mention once again, in this context, the steps we are taking to set up a Refinance Corporation to cater to medium term needs of industry. This Corporation will in time, I hope, fill a lacuna in our existing system of Industrial financing. This is an instance of the positive aspects of the policy of controlled expansion which I have referred to a little while ago.

This brings me to my next point, which relates to small savings. In the ultimate analysis, the limit to expansion in the economy is set by the availability of savings, and in a country like ours where the banking habit is under developed, small savings have a special role to fill. Taking the first Plan period as a whole, the progress of the small savings movement has been encouraging. The target for the Second Plan requires a substantial stepping up of collections year by year and I am anxious to ensure a sufficient incentive for the investor in small savings in all forms. The small savings movement is to my mind more than a way of collecting money; it is a scheme for spreading the habit of thrift and of encouraging participation by the common man in the Plan effort. I wish to take this opportunity to appeal to every family whether in the urban or in the rural areas to save more and make the small savings movement a success.

While the campaign for small savings has to be intensified, I propose also to increase the rate of interest on small savings investments with effect from the 1st of June 1957. Briefly, I have decided to increase the rate of interest on Post Office Savings Bank accounts by ½ per cent. and to have a new series of 12 years certificates to be called National Plan Savings Certificates in replacement of the present National Savings Certificates and National Plan Certificates. The interest on Savings Bank accounts will now be 2-1|2 per cent on balances up to Rs. 10,000 and 2 per cent on balances in excess up to Rs. 15,000 in the case of individuals and 2 per cent on balances in the public accounts. There will be only two types of savings certificates hereafter: (i) the National Plan Savings Certificate with a maturity of 12 years and (ii) the Treasury Savings Deposit Certificate with a maturity of 10 years. The yield on both these will be increased; for the former to 4.25 per cent compound interest, at the end of 12 years and for the latter to 4 per cent at the end of 10 years. Both these certificates will be tax-exempt. For people who hold

these certificates for period less than 12 years the yield will be suitably adjusted. For example, Rs. 100 invested in a National Plan Savings Certificate will become Rs. 127 at the end of 7 years, Rs. 148 at the end of 10 years and Rs. 165 at the end of 12 years. In case of the Treasury Savings Deposit Certificates interest at the rate mentioned is paid every year but an adjustment is made in the event of the holder deciding to encash it before maturity. In the case of National Plan Savings Certificates the period of non-cashability will be fixed at 12 months. The further issue of National Plan Certificates and 7 years National Savings Certificates will be discontinued.

Fiscal and monetary policy at this juncture has to be designed in a way that will make it clear beyond doubt that we, on our part, are determined to do our best to implement the plan as fully as possible. We have to make the fullest effort to raise the domestic resources required and I shall come presently to my tax proposals—which reflect this determination. It is clear, however, that the problem is not merely one of raising more domestic resources but also of finding ways and means firstly to conserve and secondly to augment our foreign exchange resources in keeping with the large requirements of the Plan. I am probably stressing this point a little hard, harder than is necessary, but I think, circumstances warrant it. The steps we are taking in the field of domestic economic policy will, it is hoped, react beneficially on our foreign exchange position as well, but this latter is, admittedly, a more difficult problem. What we can earn by way of foreign exchange on our exports is not a matter entirely in our hands; it depends on the trend of world prices and demands. Similarly, the prices we have to pay for our imports are beyond our control and all that we can do is to limit the volume of our imports. Here again, there are problems. The cuts we impose on imports become effective only after a time lag. Moreover, a developing economy needs increasing imports and there is danger, in a restrictive import policy, of impeding the flow of imports needed for the very purpose of development. Foreign exchange policy is thus a matter of delicate balancing and it is a balancing, if I may say so, in which a favourable turn of the wind could make a material difference.

In the March White Paper the various measures taken to save and conserve foreign exchange have been listed. The import programme for the first half of this year involved considerable cuts in imports, and the process will, I am afraid, have to be carried considerably farther in the import programme for the second half of the year. Government have already announced their policy in regard to licensing of capital goods imports. Private investors are being encouraged to seek medium term credits from abroad and to invite foreign enterprise to associate itself increasingly with Indian enterprise. We have in front of us a rather difficult period and we will have to exercise the utmost caution and vigilance in the matter of imports while taking every possible step to increase our export earnings. The fact that in the last twelve months the level of imports has been exceptionally high warrants the presumption that the economy can put up with sizeable import cuts for some time to come without serious dislocation. At any rate, I wish to reiterate the Government's determination to restore a position of better balance in external accounts as early as possible.

An under-developed economy which launches upon a programme of industrialisation suffers from the inevitable handicap of having to import from abroad, all or practically all, of the equipment and capital goods that it needs to make the right start. Nevertheless, a start has to be made and in the process risks have to be undertaken. In the nature of things it is not possible to chalk out the course of policy and action in the field of foreign exchange with the same precision or detail as in the case of domestic policy. The second five year plan involves heavy foreign exchange expenditure and the estimated gap in

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the balance of payments has widened partly because in some respects the initial estimates were on the low side and partly because of the rise in prices abroad. This gap is by no means easy to fill. We shall have to make our best effort along the lines I have mentioned. At the same time, we must recognise that external resources on a considerable scale will be necessary in order enable us to see through the developmental tasks we have taken in hand. Given reasonable effort all along the line on our part, we shall, I am confident, get over the transitional difficulties that are confronting us at present.

The estimates of required outlay have gone up since the Plan was formulated. The fulfilment of the Plan to schedule postulates, *inter alia*, the availability of external resources on a considerable scale, and the need for these resources is the greatest in the earlier part of the Plan. Evidently, shortfalls in this respect cannot be made good by a draft on domestic resources. We have this aspect of the problem under continuous review. It is not possible to say at this stage to what extent the progress of the plan will be affected because of foreign exchange shortage. The core of the Plan is steel, coal, transport and ancillary power. With the external assistance that has been already promised and with further support from the International Bank and other sources, we shall, I think, be able to carry through the projects in this "core". This group of programmes has the highest priority in view of its bearing on further development. But, in regard to other projects, especially those for which no external resources are specifically forthcoming, and which are not otherwise of high priority, it would be prudent for us not to make fresh commitments for some time until the outlook becomes clearer and we have more assurance of our being able to find the foreign exchange resources needed for them. Some rephasing of the Plan is thus inevitable, but, if as I hope, the balance of payments situation takes a turn for the better before long and if we succeed in securing adequate external resources, the achievement on the Plan should not fall much behind schedule.

Even if the Plan did not encounter difficulties in certain sectors—which it does — a rephasing of it might be necessary in certain parts. The rapid development of the country in the last few years has made it incumbent on our part to give closer attention to the socio-economic objectives of the Plan. The Plan has set to itself the objective of increasing national income progressively over a period of 15 to 20 years. The urgency of development is related to the need for raising living standards all round and for creating an environment in which democratic values and ways of life take root and gather strength. To those who regard the Plan as too ambitious, I would respectfully submit that they should take a good look at the living conditions of the bulk of our people. If they would only do this, I am sure they will, along with me, be able to see the several directions in which the Plan is inadequate. In the last few years there has been some visible improvement in the standards of nutrition and probably, of clothing. The housing conditions and environmental hygiene in urban and rural areas of the low income groups are deplorable; the slums in our cities are a disgrace to any society which claims to be considered civilised. I am deeply anxious to see that the Plan is strengthened in this respect.

Let us not forget that the very fact that a measure of success has been achieved already in raising living standards makes it all the more urgent that the process be carried forward with vigour and determination. The millions in India have woken up to new desires and new wants for the first time in many generations. With knowledge that a better future for all is possible has come the aspiration that the desired improvements should take place without delay. Whether it is the

demand of industrial labour for higher wages and better housing conditions, or of low-paid teachers and government employees for a fair deal and greater security — all these are but manifestations of the new awakening and of the new striving for an economic future which is consistent with the dignity of the citizens of a free society. One cannot merely shrug one's shoulders in the midst of a situation like this and say that all these things must wait till somehow or other the financial situation in the country improves. Whatever the difficulties of the moment, the demands of the people — especially of the low-income groups — must be assessed carefully and met to the maximum possible extent. Admittedly, there has to be some order of priorities in dealing with the legitimate but innumerable claims of the people. Even among the less fortunate sections of the society, there are at present wide disparities in income and it is essential that the needs of some should take precedence over those of others. The employees of State Governments and local bodies, for example, who are also doing great national service enjoy conditions of service which are less favourable than those for Central Government employees. I would humbly venture the claim that the Central Government have taken a lead recently in bettering the conditions of these people; but in view of the somewhat strained finances of many States, we have not been able to make much headway. The point remains that in attempting to improve the living conditions of the people, every care has to be taken to make a beginning where it is most needed. I am also aware that the claims of investment should not go overboard in attempting a speedy improvement in the living conditions. But when all the concessions to reality are made, the fact remains that to pronounce that our present plan is too ambitious would be a declaration of defeat in advance. The tasks we have in hand are worthwhile. Their successful completion will make a significant contribution to further development. There should be no stinting of effort or sacrifice in the furtherance of these tasks.

The Plan is the main theme and the dominant concern of all our thinking and policy-formulation. It could not be otherwise in a country which accepts development as its topmost priority. The Plan has run into difficulties, admittedly but I see no warrant for alarm or panic. What is required is preparedness to make the necessary sacrifices, and courage and resourcefulness in handling the problems that arise in the course of its implementation.

This brings me to the most crucial aspect of economic policy, *viz.*, taxation. I suppose I shall read something to fortify me to obtain courage to put these proposals before the House. I should like first to enumerate briefly the objectives of our taxation policy before I come to taxation proposals for the year. Taxation policy and proposals at this juncture have to be shaped in the light of the following criteria:—

(a) They must produce a sizeable addition to public revenues;

(b) they must provide incentives for larger earnings and more savings;

(c) they must restrain consumption over a fairly wide field so as to keep in check domestic inflationary pressures and to release the resources required for investment; and

(d) they must initiate such changes in the tax structure as would make tax yields progressively more responsive to increased incomes and facilitate an orderly development of the economy with due regard to the social objectives we have adopted.

As I stated in my Budget speech in March last, the overall budgetary deficit of Rs. 365 crores which I left uncovered then is too large in the

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context of the present economic situation. The changes which I am now incorporating in this Budget leave this initial deficit practically unchanged, and I think it is vital for us to find ways and means of bringing down this deficit significantly. The other criteria of policy which I have just mentioned need hardly be elaborated but their application, I hope, will be clear as I proceed with the enunciation of my tax proposals for the year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I might begin first with my proposals in the field of indirect taxation. Taking Customs first, it will be appreciated that the scope for raising additional revenues from them is limited. Hon. Members are aware of the severe restrictions we have imposed on imports in order to curtail our foreign exchange expenditure. Moreover, import duties on most of the so-called luxury articles are already fairly high and the duties on capital goods and industrial raw materials have necessarily to be kept as low as possible. The proposals I have made envisage the raising of the rates of duty by small amounts on about 90 items. I have also taken this opportunity to rationalise the rates structure in the Customs Tariff which run into several hundred items. There is considerable diversity in these rates which is of no real significance and is in fact administratively cumbrous. I have tried to give the tariff rates a simpler form and in this process the surcharges have been merged into the basic rates. I have also availed myself of this opportunity to convert the rates of duty both in the import and the export tariff in terms of decimal coinage. No other change is being made in the export duties. Altogether, my proposals in respect of import duties will yield a revenue of about Rs. 6 crores spread over a large number of items, too numerous to mention here.

Excise Duties: I now come to Union Excise Duties. I may say at once that I have fairly substantial proposals under this head, and in doing so, I have in mind the double objective of restraining consumption and of giving a fillip to exports. I propose the following increases:—

(i) *Motor spirit*: The existing excise duty on motor spirit which works out at 98 N.P. per Imperial Gallon inclusive of surcharge be raised to 125 N.P. per Imperial Gallon. This will yield an additional revenue of Rs. 6·65 crores in a full year.

(ii) *Refined Diesel Oil*: The existing duty of 25 N.P. per I.G. be raised to 40 N.P. per I.G. This is estimated to yield Rs. 1·90 crores in a full year.

(iii) *Diesel oil, not otherwise specified*: The duty be raised from Rs. 30 per ton to Rs. 40 per ton, the additional yield from which over a year is estimated at Rs. 35 lakhs.

(iv) *Kerosene*: The existing duty is 18·75 N.P. per I.G. It is proposed to do away with the fraction and raise it to 20 N.P. per I.G. This will yield Rs. 20 lakhs in a full year.

(v) *Cement*: The existing duty of Rs. 5 per ton be raised to Rs. 20 per ton, the estimated annual yield be being Rs. 6·7 crores.

(vi) *Steel Ingots*: The existing duty of Rs. 4 per ton be raised to Rs. 40 per ton, yielding on an annual basis Rs. 5·7 crores.

(vii) *Sugar*: The biggest increase comes in sugar. The existing duty of Rs. 5·62 per cwt. be raised to Rs. 11·25 per cwt. This will yield Rs. 18·55 crores in a full year.

(viii) *Vegetable non-essential oils*: The duty of Rs. 70 per ton be raised to Rs. 112 per ton. This will mean an increase from about 3 N.P. to 5 N.P. per lb. The estimated yield on this account is Rs. 3·15 crores in a year.

(ix) *Tea*: The duty be raised as follows:—

(a) loose tea—from 6·25 N.P. per lb. to 10 N.P. per lb.

(b) package tea converted from duty-paid loose tea — from 18·75 N.P. per lb. to 35 N.P. per lb.

(c) package tea — from 25 N.P. per lb. to 45 N.P. per lb.

This will yield an additional revenue of Rs. 2·45 crores in a year.

(x) *Coffee*: As a complementary duty, the existing duty on coffee be raised from 18·75 N.P. per lb. to 35 N.P. per lb., the estimated additional yield being Rs. 80 lakhs.

(xi) *Unmanufactured tobacco*: The duty be raised as under:—

(a) if other than flue-cured and used for the manufacture of cigarettes or smoking mixtures for pipes and cigarettes — from 56 N.P. per lb. to 75 N.P. per lb.

(b) if not flue-cured and not actually used for the manufacture of cigarettes or smoking mixtures for pipes and cigarettes, and such tobacco cured in whole leaf form and packed or tied in bundles, hanks or bunches or in the form of twists or coils — from 37 N.P. per lb. to 50 N.P. per lb.

(c) if other than flue-cured and not otherwise specified — from 87 N.P. per lb. to 100 N.P. per lb.

The additional yield from these increases aggregates Rs. 6·15 crores in a full year.

(xii) *Matches*: The existing duties be raised so as to permit of sale of match boxes at 6 N.P. and 4 N.P. per match box of 60's and 40's respectively. The gain to revenues in a full year by these increases is estimated at Rs. 6·2 crores.

(xiii) *Paper*: My proposals involve an increase in the existing duty on various types of paper, the aggregate additional yield being estimated at Rs. 2 crores on an annual basis.

These proposals in respect of Central Excise Duties are estimated to yield Rs. 60·80 crores in a full year. For the remaining part of the current year, their yield is estimated at Rs. 53·20 crores, out of which the share of the States will be about Rs. 4·2 crores in respect of tobacco and matches.

In recommending these increases to the House I have kept in mind the need for a balanced increase among the various items I have listed. The increases proposed in respect of cement and steel are large, but they are warranted by the rapid increase in the demand for them within the economy and the situation of growing shortage and the consequent increase in retail prices which we are now facing. The increase in the duty on sugar has the same objective as the increase we made last year in the excise duty on cloth, namely, to restrain domestic consumption in the interest of larger exports. In the case of matches, the existing duties were fixed with a view to ensuring sale at 3 pice per match box of 60's and 2 pice per match box of 40's. Under the decimal coinage system the equivalent of these prices comes to 4·7 N.P. and 3·1 N.P. respectively and this would have meant in effect a retail price of 5 N.P. and possible 3 N.P. respectively. With the increase in the excise duty now proposed, the retail price will be 6 N.P. and 4 N.P. respectively.

As regards tobacco, it is known that a Tobacco Expert Committee was appointed in January, 1956 under the chairmanship of my friend Shri Raghuramiah, M.P., to review the procedure adopted in applying the criterion for assessment of unmanufactured tobacco. The Committee after careful consideration of the problem has recommended that the criterion of 'capability' of use for manu-

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facture of bidis should be revised by the criterion of 'physical form' of tobacco other than flue-cured for purposes of assessment. Accordingly, such tobacco is proposed to be reclassified on the basis suggested by the Committee. For revenue purposes, the rates of duties on such tobacco are also being somewhat enhanced. With the proposed increase in the rate of duty on these two types of tobacco the rate of excise duty on unmanufactured tobacco for use in the manufacture of cigarettes is also being proportionately raised.

The tariff relating to paper has been re-arranged with a view to greater rationalisation and to absorb the higher profit margins now developing in the retail trade and the rates of excise duty which has been kept deliberately low in the initial stages are being enhanced.

Finally, the increases in the rates of excise duty on vegetable non-essential oils and strawboards and millboards, require that the existing slab exemption in favour of small producers of these commodities are being suitably revised by executive notifications.

I turn now to direct taxation. Firstly, I propose to make certain adjustments in personal income-tax and super-tax rates. Till now, these changes have followed a standard pattern which I think, needs a fundamental change. It is necessary to recognise that the basic rates should apply to a person who earns his income, that is, sweats and toils for it, and that others who derive their income from property and investments, that is, without making any direct effort should be made to pay more by way of a surcharge. Under the present system there is no provision for earned income allowance for super-tax. For income-tax there is an allowance of 20 per cent. subject to a maximum of Rs. 4,000 for earned incomes not exceeding Rs. 25,000. For incomes in excess of this amount, the allowance of Rs. 4,000 is reduced at the rate of 20 per cent. of the excess over Rs. 25,000 so that for an earned income of Rs. 45,000 the allowance is reduced to nil. I now propose to change this system altogether, applying a standard schedule of rates to all earned incomes and imposing a higher surcharge on unearned incomes. I have come to this conclusion after considerable investigation and thought because I feel that our existing rates of direct tax at top levels deprive the tax structure of all flexibility. It is said that they tend to diminish the incentive for work but I am aware that they encourage large scale evasion. It is now recognised that the very high rates of direct taxation in the top income brackets in many countries of the world are in practice tolerated or are tolerable only because of considerable evasion that takes place. In other words, the high rates tend to be applied to a corroded tax base. I now propose a revised schedule of these rates and introduce a new scheme of surcharge levy which will mean that the total of the income-tax, super-tax and surcharge for the highest slab will be brought down from the existing level of 91·8 per cent. to 84 per cent. for unearned and 77 per cent. for earned incomes. The surcharge will be 5 per cent. on the tax computed at the standard schedule rates for earned incomes up to Rs. 1 lakh and 10 per cent. on incomes in excess of that sum. Hon. Members are aware that surcharge goes to Central revenues. For unearned incomes, there will be a uniform surcharge of 20 per cent. over the standard schedule rates. When a person's income is partly earned and partly unearned, the unearned income will be considered to belong to the slab in which the earned income ends and to higher slabs where necessary. The rates for the lower slabs have been adjusted in keeping with this change in respect of top slabs.

To provide relief to the middle classes, I propose that no surcharge on unearned income be levied where the total income does not exceed Rs. 7,500. The reduction in the rates of direct taxation will cost the Exchequer Rs. 7½ crores. This reduction should, be judged in the light of the other changes in direct taxation which I propose to mention later.

I propose also to widen the present income-tax base by reducing the taxable minimum from Rs. 4,200 to Rs. 3,000. The minimum limit had been raised over the past few years mainly for administrative reasons. An income of Rs. 4,200, modest though it is in absolute terms, is quite a large multiple of the average level of incomes in the country. It is reasonable to expect that those with an income of Rs. 3,000 should also make their contribution, however small, to the public exchequer, and should come within the range of direct taxation. As development proceeds, there will, I expect, be a large and progressive increase in the number of incomes within this range and I think it is essential if the Exchequer is to benefit proportionately from the expansion of incomes consequent on development, that these incomes are brought within the income-tax range. I therefore, propose to place the exemption limit now at Rs. 3,000 for Individuals and Rs. 6,000 for Hindu Undivided Families. I propose, however, to couple this with an increased allowance for married people. The extra tax-free slab of Rs. 1,000 which at present applies to married people will now be raised to Rs. 2,000. The wider coverage of income-tax consequent on this set of proposals will bring in about Rs. 5 crores this year.

My next proposal relates to the taxation of Companies. I propose to raise the income-tax payable by Companies from the present level of 4 annas in the rupee to 30 per cent. and the Corporation Tax from the present level of 2 annas 9 pies in the rupee to 20 per cent. As Hon. Members are aware, shareholders of Companies being entitled to credit of income-tax paid on their behalf by the Company are not affected by the increase. The net effect of the proposal to increase income-tax on Companies will, therefore, not be very significant. It will to some extent help us to check evasion.

The need for corporate savings is as great as ever. In view, however, of the increase proposed by me in the rate of Corporation Tax, I propose to reduce the Excess Dividends Tax—

to 10 per cent. on distribution of dividends between 6 per cent. and 10 per cent. of the paid-up capital,

to 20 per cent. on distribution between 10 per cent. and 18 per cent. of the paid-up capital, and

to 30 per cent. on the balance.

During the debate on the Finance (No. 3) Bill introduced by me last December, reference was made by certain Members to the stimulus that my proposals were likely to give to bonus share issues. I was aware then that with the increase in the rates of Excess Dividends Tax and the introduction of the Capital Gains Tax, there should be some change in the rates of tax on bonus issues. I have considered this matter and propose to raise the tax thereon from the present level of 12½ per cent. to 30 per cent.

At present, rates of super-tax for inter-corporate dividends are about 17 per cent. for Indian companies and 20 per cent. for foreign companies. With the increase in the basic rates of Corporation Tax, these rates require adjustment. I propose accordingly, to reduce the rate of inter-corporate super-tax to 10 per cent. for both Indian and foreign companies on dividends received from Indian subsidiaries. The effect of this will be that, so far as foreign companies working through subsidiaries are concerned, the total tax payable by them will more or less remain practically unaltered. Similarly, for

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foreign companies operating through branches and earning other incomes, the rate of Corporation Tax will be reduced from 36 per cent. to 30 per cent. I expect that, with these changes, there will be some encouragement for the investment of foreign capital in India.

My next proposal with regard to Companies relates to the tax on undistributed profits of companies in which the public are not substantially interested. This tax has frequently been the subject matter of considerable argument. The principle on which the tax is based is unexceptionable, namely, that individuals having income in the higher brackets should not be allowed to avoid payment of super-tax by forming close corporations and not distributing their profits in such corporations. However, in the context of our development plans, we have to balance against the need to prevent super-tax avoidance the needs of companies for funds required for expanding industrial activities. I propose to reduce to 45 per cent. from 60, the minimum percentage of available profits which an industrial company of the above type should distribute in order to avoid the penal consequences of inadequate distribution; for non-industrial companies the percentage will continue to be retained at 60 per cent. For a company which derives profits partly from industrial activities and partly from other activities, the minimum distribution required will be 45 per cent. of available industrial profits and 60 per cent. of other available profits. Investment companies will be required to distribute 100 per cent. as usual. In cases where the accumulated profits and reserves are not less than the paid-up capital or the value of the fixed assets, the minimum percentage required to be distributed is at present 100 per cent. for all companies. I propose to reduce the percentage to 45 per cent. for the industrial companies and 90 per cent. for others. With these reductions in the minimum amount required to be distributed, it will be unnecessary for me to continue the present scheme of adjudication by the Commissioner of Income Tax and the Board of Referees on the business needs of companies seeking total or partial exemption from the operation of the provisions relating to minimum distribution.

There are certain other minor changes proposed upon which I do not wish to dilate here. These relate to exemption from income-tax of employer's contribution to a recognised provident fund, increase in the percentage of the income that will qualify for rebate of income-tax if saved in the provident fund or insurance, limitation on the carry-forward of losses, etc. I have also taken the opportunity of redrafting the provision relating to deposits to be made by companies of a portion of their undistributed profits and development rebate and depreciation allowances so as to bring the Government's intention more clearly.

Altogether, the changes I propose in the taxation of Companies will bring in additional receipts to the exchequer amounting to Rs. 7½ crores.

I come now to two new tax measures designed to alter the tax structure in a way that will ensure a more effective and at the same time a more equitable basis for taxation. My first proposal is to levy a Tax on Wealth. It is recognised that income as defined by existing Income Tax laws and practice is not a sufficient measure of tax paying capacity and that the system of taxation on incomes has to be supplemented by taxation based on wealth. This is more equitable and it also promises, over a period, to reduce the possibilities of tax evasion. I mentioned earlier the reliefs in income-tax at top levels of income which I am introducing this year. These reliefs are meant as an encouragement to larger effort and greater initiative on the basis of

which alone a healthy and progressive economy can be built up. It is necessary at the same time to adopt other measures which are egalitarian in intent but which do not have a disincentive effect. The Tax on Wealth that I am now proposing is one such measure. This tax will be payable by Individuals, Hindu Undivided Families and by companies. In the case of Individuals, values upto Rs. 2 lakhs and in the case of Hindu Undivided Families values upto Rs. 3 lakhs will be exempted. In respect of wealth exceeding that amount the rate will be ¼ per cent. for the first Rs. 10 lakhs, 1 per cent. for the next 10 lakhs and 1¼ per cent. on the balance. This will thus be a progressive tax which, together with the surcharges I have recommended in respect of income-tax on unearned incomes, will contribute towards a more effective taxation of the richer classes without diminishing incentives to earn in the process.

In the case of Companies, there will be no tax on assets up to a value of Rs. 5 lakhs; on values beyond that the rate will be ½ per cent. The Wealth Tax is intended primarily as a measure of personal taxation but in the peculiar economic structure of India I consider it advisable not to exclude Companies from the purview of this tax. However, the rate of tax has to be low. This is why I have proposed a flat rate of only ½ per cent. on assets above the exemption limit which I have just mentioned.

Certain properties will be exempted from this tax. Some of these are:—

Agricultural properties;

Properties belonging to charitable or religious trusts;

Works of art;

Archaeological collections not intended for sale;

Balances in recognised provident funds and insurance policies;

Personal effects including furniture, cars, jewellery, etc., up to a maximum of Rs. 25,000; and Books and publications not intended for sale.

With a view to achieving simplicity in the procedure for evaluating the various kinds of assets which form part of a business undertaking, it is proposed as far as possible to treat the business undertaking as a whole as a single unit for valuation. Other assets will be taken at their market value. The yield from this tax is estimated at about Rs. 15 crores.

The imposition of this tax as also the other measures now proposed should help in checking evasion. I am taking credit of Rs. 5 crores on this account.

Broadly speaking, the administrative set-up and the procedure for assessment and appeal will be the same as for Income-tax. With regard to valuation of immovable non-agricultural property, the assessee will be given a right of reference to an arbitration committee against the decision of the first appellate authority. This committee will consist of a Valuer appointed under the Estate Duty Act and another non-official member drawn from a panel of persons familiar with local property values.

The other proposal I make is the introduction of a Tax on Expenditure. This is a form of taxation which has no backing as yet of historical experience. It is, however, a tax which, given effective administrative arrangements, can be a potent instrument for restraining ostentatious expenditure and promote savings. In the present circumstances, I think all we can do is to make a small beginning. I propose to levy this tax only on Individuals and Hindu Undivided Families whose income for income tax purposes is not less than Rs. 60,000 a year. The tax will be imposed on all expenditure incurred, from whatever source it may be, in excess of certain sums which will vary with the size of the family. The amounts excluded are:—

A basic amount of Rs. 24,000 for an assessee and his wife; and Rs. 5,000 for each dependent child.

The rate of tax will be based on a slab system, the rate for each slab

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increasing progressively with the increase in the level of expenditure. Thus, for excess expenditure upto Rs. 10,000 the rate will be 10 per cent. and for higher slabs the rate will increase progressively. As in the case of Wealth Tax, the administrative set-up and the assessment and appellate procedure will be the same as for Income Tax. I propose to make this tax applicable from the financial year 1958-59 and therefore take no credit for any receipts in 1957-58.

I propose to levy a tax on railway passenger fares. The rate of tax will be 5 per cent. for distances up to 30 miles, season tickets exempted, 15 per cent. for distances between 31 miles and 500 miles and 10 per cent. for longer distances. No tax will be levied on season tickets. The yield of this tax is expected to be Rs. 14 crores in a whole year. In the current year, the yield will be about Rs. 8 crores. The proceeds of it less the amount attributable to Union Territories will have to be distributed entirely to the States. The States need more resources and railway travellers, like consumers of other commodities, should, under present conditions, make a contribution. I propose to seek the advice of the Finance Commission before I bring forward proposals before Parliament in regard to the actual distribution of the proceeds of this tax.

The Postal and Telegraph Branches of the Posts and Telegraphs Department are working at a loss. Except for unregistered letters and inland letter cards, practically all items of postal traffic are carried at a loss. On a number of items like post cards, money orders, registered newspapers etc., the rates charged have, for many years, been substantially less than the cost of providing the service. For example, it has been estimated that the average cost of carrying a post card is 7.24 naye paise as against the present postage of 5 naye paise. This results in an annual loss of over Rs. 155 lakhs. Every increase in traffic in these items—and traffic has been increasing—results in an increase in the losses. With the progressively increasing expenditure on construction of staff quarters and the provision of other amenities for the staff, the existing postal rates are bound to prove even more uneconomic. The opening of unremunerative Post Offices and Telegraph Offices as part of the Department's expansion schemes under the first and second five year plans has contributed to the loss in the Postal and Telegraph Branches. The Department has also been building up its capital assets at a fairly rapid rate, the total capital outlay at present being about three times what it was before Independence. The annual provision, from revenue, for depreciation and replacement of these assets, as I have said before, is at present only Rs. 1.25 crores, and it has been decided to increase this provision to Rs. 2.50 crores during the current year in anticipation of a detailed examination of the whole question. In response to a demand which had been widely and persistently voiced by the book trade, both in and out of Parliament, Government had appointed a Committee to examine the question of charging a concessional rate of postage on bonafide books as compared with other items chargeable as packets so that the cost of sending books to rural areas which could be reached only through Post Offices might not be unduly increased. After considering the Book Committee's Report, it has been decided to allow a concessional rate of postage on books. All these measures, however, inevitably result in reducing the surplus earnings of the Department and of increasing the losses of the Postal and Telegraph Branches. To ensure the financial stability of the Department, it has become necessary to raise some rates. On post cards, the existing rates of 5 naye paise for single and 10 naye paise for the reply post cards will be raised to 6 naye paise and 12 naye paise respectively. Postage on local post cards will be raised similarly from 3 naye paise for single and 6 naye paise for reply post cards to 4 naye

paise and 8 naye paise respectively. For packets containing bonafide books only, the postage on the initial weight slab of 5 tolas will be reduced from the existing rate of 6 naye paise to 5 naye paise but on other packets the existing rate of 6 naye paise will be raised to 8 naye paise. The postage on additional weight slabs, in both these cases, will remain unchanged. In spite of these adjustments in the book, sample and pattern packet rates, the traffic in this category of articles will continue to result in a loss of over Rs. 8 lakh per annum. The rates on parcels will be increased from the existing level of 50 naye paise for every 40 tolas or fraction thereof, to 60 naya paise for the first 40 tolas or fraction thereof and 50 naya paise for every additional 40 tolas or fraction thereof. On inland telegrams, the charge for every additional word over the minimum of 8 words will be raised from 7 naye paise to 8 naye paise for ordinary and 14 naye paise to 16 naye paise for express telegrams. The additional revenue expected in the current year from these increases is Rs. 85 lakhs.

I must now recapitulate briefly the proposals I have made so far:—

(i) Firstly, my proposals involve small increases of import duties on a number of articles, the additional yield from which during the year is estimated at about Rs. 6 crores.

(ii) Secondly, the proposals I have made in respect of excise duties involve an enhancement of the rates of duty on various items such as motor-spirit, refined diesel oils and vaporising oil, diesel oil not otherwise specified, steel ingots, cement, sugar, matches, unmanufactured tobacco other than flue-cured, vegetable non-essential oils, and paper. The additional revenues on this account are estimated at Rs. 53·20 crores for the remaining portion of the current financial year but Rs. 4.2 crores will be payable to the States as their share of the additional duties on tobacco and matches.

(iii) Thirdly, the proposals I have made in regard to personal income-tax and super-tax are estimated to bring in Rs. 25 crores in the current year of which the share of the States on account of income-tax will come to Rs. 3 crores. The reduction in income-tax and super-tax rates involve a loss of Rs. 7·5 crores. The lowering of the exemption limit is estimated to yield Rs. 5 crores. The adjustments in Company taxation will yield about Rs. 7·5 crores. The Tax on Wealth is estimated to yield Rs. 15 crores, and to this I add Rs. 5 crores by way of better collections of income-tax reflecting a reduction of tax evasion. The changes I have suggested in direct taxation do not make a big addition to public revenues this year but I expect that they will make an increasing contribution to the Exchequer as we get more experience with the new forms of taxation I have proposed and as the machinery for assesment and collection gets geared to its new tasks.

(iv) Fourthly, I have proposed a tax on fares payable by passengers travelling by Railway. This will yield Rs. 8 crores which will be distributed entirely to the States.

(v) Fifthly, I have proposed certain changes in postal and telegram rates which are expected to yield a revenue of Rs. 85 lakhs.

(vi) Sixthly, I have proposed an Expenditure Tax which will be effective from 1958-59 but will apply to expenditures incurred in 1957-58.

The net accretion to the Central revenues as a result of these proposals will amount to Rs. 77·85 crores and

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the revenue budget will now show a surplus of Rs. 44·73 crores. Ordinarily, the overall deficit would, as a consequence, amount to Rs. 290 crores, if the additional revenue of Rs. 15 crores which would be passed on to the States as a result of these proposals is not taken into account. As Hon. Members will observe from the White Paper, Central assistance to the States for financing the Plan during 1957-58 has been placed at Rs. 278 crores. As a result of the additional revenue accruing to the States, there will therefore be a corresponding reduction in this figure, the reduction being taken in the provision for loans to State Governments. The overall deficit will thus amount to Rs. 275 crores and will be met by expansion of Treasury Bills.

I would like to say a few words about the import of these proposals. We are pledged to move in the direction of a socialist society. This means that we wish to develop an efficient system of production and an equitable pattern of income and wealth which will ensure well-balanced progress. Such a system requires a strengthening of incentives to work and to save. This is the rationale of my tax concessions on earned incomes. A standard rate of tax on earned incomes, and a differential rate for taxation of unearned incomes, coupled with a tax on wealth and a tax on expenditure, will give us a better basis for assessment of tax liability, especially in respect of higher income ranges, and will help us to close progressively the loop-holes of tax evasion and corrosion of the tax base. If I have brought down the exemption limit for tax liability it is, firstly, because the present limit is too high in relation to the average level of incomes in the country, and secondly, because I am of the view that the ground must be prepared, from now on for bringing into the tax net the increases in incomes which will take place in these ranges in the coming years. All my proposals in the field of direct taxation form an inter-related whole, and should, I suggest be judged as such.

My proposals in respect of company taxation are designed not merely to increase revenues but also on balance, to encourage the ploughing back of profits through a check on dividend distribution. These measures are not intended to curtail genuine investment in the private sector, though it would not be unreasonable to assume that a slight slowing down for a short period will not, in present circumstances be undesirable. There are, however, other devices to regulate private investment. I wish, therefore, to retain the bias in the tax structure in favour of corporate investment. It is for this reason that I have left untouched the existing liberal depreciation allowances and the system of development rebates, which it is recognised on all hands, are a powerful incentive for investment. I have also, as I mentioned earlier, re-adjusted the tax rates to encourage foreign investment. I recognise that the shareholder or the investor expects to get a reasonable return on his capital, but I also think that under modern conditions there is even greater need for providing incentives for those who work and manage concerns and thus fall within the category of earned income earners.

My proposals involve a raising of burdens on the near necessities of the common man. This is inevitable in the present circumstances. These burdens, large as they may look in the aggregate, have a low average incidence. A process of development in a country where most incomes are low cannot be financed without calling for sacrifices from all section of the community, and there are special reasons at this juncture for applying some restraint on consumption in order to check inflationary pressures and to stimulate exports. I recognise, at the same time, the need in particular sectors may well be from time to time assist in maintaining consumption at a reasonable level in terms of the minimum nutritional standards, and to this end, it may be necessary to subsidise food. My intention, therefore, is to build up from out of the addi-

tional receipts of taxation a food subsidy fund of the order of Rs. 25 crores. This fund will be used to keep down food prices, particularly for the more vulnerable areas and would I think prove a valuable instrument in the hands of my hon. colleague, the Food and Agriculture Minister.

The proposals that I have made will still leave the overall deficit for the year at a level somewhat higher than I would consider safe; but it is not unwise in my judgment to run a measure of risk especially if by doing so the expansionary impulse in the economy can be maintained at a reasonably high level. A budgetary deficit involves creation of fresh purchasing power. It implies that, on balance, Government puts more purchasing power into the hands of the public than it withdraws from it. The stresses and strains that have developed in the economy are a warning against unrestricted deficit financing. I am not against deficit financing as such I recognise it can play a role in promoting development. But, it is a medicine to be taken in small doses and it is not food that would sustain the system. On the whole, I doubt if we shall be able over the Plan period to undertake deficit financing of the order indicated in the Plan, and this means we have to raise more resources by taxation, loans and small savings. Considering the needs not only of the current year but also of the next few years in terms of the second five year Plan, I am convinced that the measures I have placed before the House today are essential and salutary.

Indeed, I feel confident that over a period, they will help us in getting out of the stagnancy of public revenue relatively to national income, which is a bottleneck from the point of view of further developmental planning. The ratio of public revenues to taxation in India is low, even by the standards of relatively underdeveloped countries. The way to raise it is to initiate structural changes in the tax system so as to make it more progressive in terms of returns. Therefore, Sir, the emphasis of my proposals is on this aspect of the tax problem. The propriety of the changes I have suggested should be judged in this light rather than in terms of their immediate yield. I have in effect, outlined the tax structure for the Plan period. There will, undoubtedly, have to be some adjustments in this structure from year to year, but I expect that these adjustments will be relatively small and of a marginal character. For the rest of the Plan period, our aim will be to watch how the changes I have initiated this year work in practice and how the system can be improved upon—to the benefit of the taxpayer and no less than in the interest of the tax-receiver. Within this broad framework, I believe, all concerned can proceed with their plans with confidence and assurance of sympathetic consideration by Government of any genuine difficulties.

This brings me to the end of my story; I am aware that the policies and proposals I have placed before you and this Hon. House add up to a varied and somewhat formidable bill of fare. But the exigencies of the situation demand nothing less. There are moments in the history of every nation when it must advance on a great many fronts at the same time. The task before us is not merely one of raising resources for the immediate needs of the Plan. We have also to attempt at the same time a rationalisation of the tax structure so that it can sustain a mounting crescendo of developmental effort in the years to come. I am one of those who also believe that the greatest advances towards economic equality and positive social improvement are made in difficult times when the conscience and the solidarity of a people are raised to the highest pitch. This I believe is one of the chief lessons of the second world war. Sacrifice on a nation-wide scale and injustice or excessive inequality go ill together. And that is why I have endeavoured in the present budget to snatch from the needs of the moment an opportunity for

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imparting a new turn to our tax structure towards greater efficiency and I hope greater equity. A heavy responsibility rests on us all at this juncture, and I have presented to the House an approach in terms of policies and of proposals which is to the best of my judgment appropriate to this responsibility. I hope when the time comes for someone to judge whether we rose to the occasion or not, we shall have to our credit a record worthy of this House and of the nation.

Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the Budget proposals.

FINANCE (NO. 2) BILL,* 1957

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 1957-58.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 1957-58."

The motion was adopted.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, I introduce **the Bill.

WEALTH TAX BILL*

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy of wealth-tax.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy of wealth-tax."

The motion was adopted.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

EXPENDITURE TAX BILL*

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy of a tax on expenditure.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy of a tax on expenditure."

The motion was adopted.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, I introduce the Bill.**

RAILWAY PASSENGER FARES BILL*

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy of a tax on railway fares.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy of a tax on railway fares."

The motion was adopted.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, I introduce the Bill.**

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**Introduced with the recommendations of the President.

PROVISIONAL COLLECTION* OF TAXES (TEMPORARY AMENDMENT) BILL*

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, 1931, for a temporary period.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, 1931, for a temporary period."

The motion was adopted.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, I introduce the Bill.**

18.29 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 16th May 1957.

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(Wednesday 15th May, 1957)

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(2) A copy of the Annual Report of the Hindustan Shipyard Private Limited for the year 1955-56

(3) A copy of each of the following papers in respect of the Delhi Road Transport Authority for the year 1954-55 :

(i) Balance Sheets

(ii) Profit and Loss Accounts together with Operating Accounts.

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